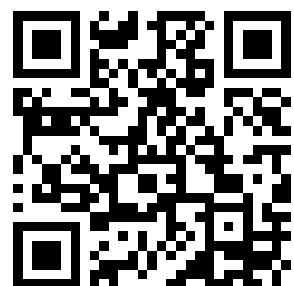


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# Bureau of Land Management



## CALIFORNIA STATEWIDE WILDERNESS STUDY REPORT

Part 1

Record of Decision



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THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON

RECORD OF DECISION

The following are the wilderness recommendations for 209 wilderness study areas (WSAs) in the State of California. These recommendations were developed from the findings of a 15-year wilderness study process by the Department of the Interior and Bureau of Land Management. The wilderness studies considered each area's resource values, present and projected future uses of the areas, public input, the manageability of the areas as wilderness, the environmental consequences of designating or not designating the areas as wilderness, and mineral surveys prepared by the U.S. Geological Survey and Bureau of Mines.

Based on our review of those studies, I have concluded that 2.3 million acres within 62 study areas should be designated as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System and that 4.8 million acres within 147 study areas should be released from wilderness study for uses other than wilderness. The acreage recommendations for each WSA, with which I concur, are listed in the following table. The Wilderness Study Report accompanying this decision includes a detailed discussion of the recommendations and maps showing the boundaries of each area.

In addition, I am recommending that 4 parcels of land containing 108,600 acres currently administered by the Bureau of Land Management be transferred to the National Park System for inclusion within the Death Valley and Joshua Tree National Monuments. Three parcels containing 103,800 acres would be added to the Death Valley National Monument and one parcel containing 4,800 acres would be added to Joshua Tree National Monument. This recommendation is the result of a study conducted by the Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, and Bureau of Mines. The study examined these and other proposed boundary adjustments and their effect on the manageability of the monuments. Based on my review of this study, I concur with the recommendation of the Bureau of Land Management and National Park Service. A detailed discussion of the recommendations, legal descriptions, and maps are included in the expansion report on the National Monuments that accompanies this decision.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Interior

\_\_\_\_\_  
June 12, 1991  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



## California Wilderness Recommendations

WSA Name	WSA Number	Study	Acres Rec. for Wild.	Acres not Rec. for Wild.
Dead Mtns. North AD.	AZ-050-001	Yuma	0	2,029
Dead Mtns. South AD.	AZ-050-002	Yuma	0	903
Chemehuevi Mtns. AD.	AZ-050-003	Yuma	0	193
Chemehuevi/Needles AD	AZ-050-004	Yuma	938	0
Whipple Mtns. AD.	AZ-050-010	Yuma	1,343	120
Big Maria Mtns. North AD.	AZ-050-018	Yuma	0	495
Big Maria Mtns. South AD.	AZ-050-019	Yuma	0	1,431
Little Picacho Peak AD.	AZ-050-035	Yuma	0	2,925
Garcia Mountain	CA-010-012	Section 202 Statewide	0	80
Sheep Ridge	CA-010-022	Cent CA Section 202	0	5,102
Milk Ranch/Case Mtn.	CA-010-023	Cent CA Section 202	0	8,970
Owens Peak	CA-010-026	Central California	15,897	8,231
Sacatar Meadows	CA-010-027	Benton-Owens Valley	10,721	6,739
Rockhouse	CA-010-029	Section 202 Statewide	0	130
Domeland	CA-010-032	Section 202 Statewide	0	2,223
Caliente Mountain	CA-010-042	Central California	0	17,590
Plute Cypress	CA-010-046	Central California	0	3,453
Cerro Gordo	CA-010-055	Benton-Owens Valley	0	14,079
Southern Inyo	CA-010-056	Benton-Owens Valley	28,291	8,610
Independence Creek	CA-010-057	Benton-Owens Valley	0	6,458
Crater Mountain	CA-010-062	Benton-Owens Valley	0	7,069
Symmes Creek	CA-010-064	Benton-Owens Valley	0	7,694
Chidago Canyon	CA-010-079	Benton-Owens Valley	0	19,702
Fish Slough	CA-010-080	Benton-Owens Valley	0	14,700
Volcanic Tablelands	CA-010-081	Benton-Owens Valley	0	12,499
Casa Diablo	CA-010-082	Benton-Owens Valley	0	5,325
Excelsior	CA-010-088	Benton-Owens Valley	0	9,383
Granite Mountain	CA-010-090	Benton-Owens Valley	0	54,178
Walford Springs	CA-010-092	Benton-Owens Valley	0	12,840
Mormon Meadow	CA-010-094	Benton-Owens Valley	0	7,721
Mount Biederman	CA-010-095	Benton-Owens Valley	0	13,069
Bodie Mountain	CA-010-099	Benton-Owens Valley	0	23,934
Bodie	CA-010-100	Benton-Owens Valley	0	16,482
Masonic Mountain	CA-010-102	Benton-Owens Valley	0	6,493
Slinkard	CA-010-105	Benton-Owens Valley	0	6,268
Machesna	CA-010-108	Section 202 Statewide	0	70
Pit River Canyon	CA-020-103	Alturas	7,443	4,281
Tule Mountain	CA-020-211	Alturas	0	16,998
Tunnison Mountain	CA-020-311	Eagle Lake-Cedarville	7,889	11,995
Bitterbrush	CA-020-604	Instant Wilderness Study	0	640
Five Springs	CA-020-609	Eagle Lake-Cedarville	0	49,206
Skedaddle	CA-020-612	Eagle Lake-Cedarville	37,644	24,366
South Warner Contiguous	CA-020-708	Section 202 Statewide	1,161	3,169



WSA Name	WSA Number	Study	Acres Rec. for Wild.	Acres not Rec. for Wild.
Timbered Crater	CA-030-201	N. Central	0	17,896
Lava	CA-030-203	N. Central	0	10,770
Yolla Bolly Contiguous	CA-030-501	Section 202 Statewide	0	646
Merced River	CA-040-203	Central California	0	12,959
Panoche Hills North	CA-040-301A	Central California	0	6,631
Panoche Hills South	CA-040-301B	Central California	0	11,229
Pinnacles	CA-040-303	Central California	1,983	3,966
Ventana Contiguous	CA-040-308	Cent CA Section 202	0	676
San Benito Mountain	CA-040-309	Instant Wilderness Study	0	1,500
Chemise Mountain	CA-050-111	Arcata	4,143	0
King Range	CA-050-112	Arcata	20,248	13,237
Red Mountain	CA-050-132	Red Mtn.	0	6,244
Big Butte	CA-050-211	Section 202 Statewide	0	2,408
Thatcher Ridge	CA-050-212	Eden Valley/Thatcher	0	16,918
Eden Valley	CA-050-214	Eden Valley/Thatcher	0	6,166
Rocky Creek/Cache Creek	CA-050-317	Clear Lake	0	33,561
Cedar Roughs	CA-050-331	Clear Lake	0	5,875
Agua Tibia	CA-060-002	Western Counties	344	0
Beauty Mountain	CA-060-020G	Western Counties	0	11,364
San Ysidro Mountain	CA-060-022	E. San Diego Sec 202	0	2,125
San Felipe Hills	CA-060-023	East San Diego	0	5,325
Sawtooth Mountains A	CA-060-024A	E. San Diego Sec 202	0	3,883
Sawtooth Mountains B	CA-060-024B	East San Diego	22,875	2,916
Sawtooth Mountains C	CA-060-024C	E. San Diego Sec 202	0	2,454
Carizzo Gorge	CA-060-025A	East San Diego	15,408	0
Table Mountain	CA-060-026	E. San Diego Sec 202	0	1,018
Hauser Mountain	CA-060-027C	Western Counties	0	5,540
Western Otay Mountain	CA-060-028	Western Counties	4,323	1,435
Southern Otay Mountain	CA-060-029	Western Counties	6,783	1,272
McAffee Creek	CDCA-100	California Desert	0	438
North Tip	CDCA-100A	California Desert	0	252
Toler Creek	CDCA-101	California Desert	0	1,122
N.W. Fishlake Valley	CDCA-102	California Desert	0	14,737
White Mountain	CDCA-103	California Desert	0	8,766
Cottonwood Creek	CDCA-104	California Desert	0	6,466
Wyman Creek	CDCA-105	California Desert	0	7,292
Antelope Spring	CDCA-107A	California Desert	0	1,054
Sylvania Mountains	CDCA-111	California Desert	0	18,984
Last Chance Mountain	CDCA-112	California Desert	0	40,254
Piper Mountain	CDCA-115	California Desert	0	70,793
Saline Valley	CDCA-117	California Desert	392,643	58,084
Lower Saline Valley	CDCA-117A	California Desert	2,154	4,264
North Death Valley	CDCA-118	California Desert	0	13,302
Little Sand Spring	CDCA-119	California Desert	35,792	0
Waucoba Wash	CDCA-120	California Desert	0	14,115
Saline Dunes	CDCA-121	California Desert	0	6,311



WSA Name	WSA Number	Study	Acres Rec. for Wild.	Acres not Rec. for Wild.
Inyo Mountains	CDCA-122	California Desert	58,392	47,843
Hunter Mountain	CDCA-123	California Desert	20,030	6,579
Cerro Gordo Peak	CDCA-124	California Desert	0	54,081
Panamint Dunes	CDCA-127	California Desert	90,626	16,181
North Coso Range	CDCA-130	California Desert	0	10,103
Coso Range	CDCA-131	California Desert	0	26,486
Great Falls Basin	CDCA-132	California Desert	0	6,039
Darwin Falls	CDCA-132A	California Desert	0	7,438
North Argus Range	CDCA-132B	California Desert	0	27,348
Wildrose Canyon	CDCA-134	California Desert	14,079	27,708
Surprise Canyon	CDCA-136	California Desert	0	58,398
Manly Peak	CDCA-137	California Desert	0	31,754
Middle Park Canyon	CDCA-137A	California Desert	0	9,538
Slate Range	CDCA-142	California Desert	44,536	56,029
Funeral Mountains	CDCA-143	California Desert	23,004	33,392
Resting Spring Range	CDCA-145	California Desert	0	100,960
Greenwater Range	CDCA-147	California Desert	0	145,454
Greenwater Valley	CDCA-148	California Desert	22,811	35,689
Ibex Hills	CDCA-149	California Desert	0	39,111
Ibex Spring	CDCA-149A	California Desert	0	2,669
Nopah Range	CDCA-150	California Desert	79,868	47,051
South Nopah Range	CDCA-150A	California Desert	0	5,759
Pahrump Valley	CDCA-154	California Desert	0	34,289
Owlshead Mountains	CDCA-156	California Desert	121,912	3,427
Little Lake Canyon	CDCA-157	California Desert	32,225	819
Owens Peak	CDCA-158	California Desert	26,113	27,045
Cow Heaven	CDCA-159	California Desert	0	8,155
Horse Canyon	CDCA-160	California Desert	0	4,595
Kelso Peak	CDCA-160B	California Desert	0	7,297
Skinner Peak	CDCA-160C	California Desert	0	1,586
Frog Creek	CDCA-163	California Desert	0	10,399
El Paso Mountains	CDCA-164	California Desert	13,986	6,688
Golden Valley	CDCA-170	California Desert	29,113	10,292
Red Mountain	CDCA-172	California Desert	0	6,561
Blackwater Well	CDCA-173	California Desert	0	7,896
Grass Valley	CDCA-173A	California Desert	0	15,098
Black Mountain	CDCA-186C	California Desert	0	8,986
Newberry Mountains	CDCA-206	California Desert	20,291	4,078
Rodman Mountains	CDCA-207	California Desert	17,630	12,289
Bighorn Mountains	CDCA-217	California Desert	11,068	41,525
Morongo	CDCA-218	California Desert	6,410	0
Whitewater	CDCA-218A	California Desert	11,169	2,707
Saddle Peak Mountains	CDCA-219	California Desert	0	9,134
South Saddle Peak Mtn.	CDCA-220	California Desert	0	6,190
Avawatz Mountains	CDCA-221	California Desert	0	101,000



WSA Name	WSA Number	Study	Acres Rec. for Wild.	Acres not Rec. for Wild.
South Avawatz Mountains	CDCA-221A	California Desert	0	26,621
Kingston Range	CDCA-222	California Desert	34,369	248,562
Silurian Valley	CDCA-222A	California Desert	0	18,318
North Mesquite Mountain	CDCA-223	California Desert	0	28,124
Mesquite Mountains	CDCA-225	California Desert	0	50,957
Stateline	CDCA-225A	California Desert	0	8,764
Clark Mountain	CDCA-227	California Desert	0	14,275
Hollow Hills	CDCA-228	California Desert	0	29,187
Shadow Valley	CDCA-235A	California Desert	0	9,660
Magee/Atkins	CDCA-237	California Desert	0	13,371
Deer Spring	CDCA-237A	California Desert	0	2,293
Valley View	CDCA-237B	California Desert	0	3,233
Teutonia Peak	CDCA-238A	California Desert	0	2,783
Cima Dome	CDCA-238B	California Desert	0	20,989
Cinder Cones	CDCA-239	California Desert	41,701	11,842
Soda Mountains	CDCA-242	California Desert	0	118,537
Old Dad Mountain	CDCA-243	California Desert	0	57,036
Rainbow Wells	CDCA-244	California Desert	0	21,887
Eight-Mile Tank	CDCA-245	California Desert	0	22,473
Kelso Mountains	CDCA-249	California Desert	0	74,992
Kelso Dunes	CDCA-250	California Desert	46,405	110,017
Cady Mountains	CDCA-251	California Desert	0	77,015
Mesquite Spring	CDCA-251A	California Desert	0	18,648
Sleeping Beauty Mountains	CDCA-252	California Desert	0	23,282
Bristol/Granite Mountains	CDCA-256	California Desert	43,232	64,024
Lava Hills	CDCA-258	California Desert	0	23,141
South Bristol Mountains	CDCA-258A	California Desert	0	27,056
Marble Mountains	CDCA-259	California Desert	0	36,455
Clipper Mountains	CDCA-260	California Desert	0	43,448
South Providence Mtns.	CDCA-262	California Desert	24,238	7,352
Providence Mountains	CDCA-263	California Desert	59,681	2,265
Mid Hills	CDCA-264	California Desert	0	16,979
New York Mountains	CDCA-265	California Desert	0	43,980
Castle Peaks	CDCA-266	California Desert	43,519	3,824
Fort Piute	CDCA-267	California Desert	34,854	11,232
Table Mountain	CDCA-270	California Desert	0	8,452
Woods Mountains	CDCA-271	California Desert	0	44,162
Signal Hill	CDCA-272	California Desert	0	35,693
Dead Mountains	CDCA-276	California Desert	0	34,727
Piute Mountains	CDCA-288	California Desert	0	20,279
Essex	CDCA-288A	California Desert	0	13,331
Bigelow Cholla Garden	CDCA-290	California Desert	0	10,105
Sacramento Mountains	CDCA-292	California Desert	0	34,582
Stepladder Mountains	CDCA-294	California Desert	0	125,754
Pilot Peak	CDCA-295	California Desert	0	30,526



WSA Name	WSA Number	Study	Acres Rec. for Wild.	Acres not Rec. for Wild.
Old Woman Mountains	CDCA-299	California Desert	0	116,505
Ship Mountains	CDCA-300	California Desert	0	24,757
Cleghorn Lakes	CDCA-304	California Desert	0	26,324
Amboy Crater	CDCA-304A	California Desert	0	12,527
Sheephole/Cadiz	CDCA-305	California Desert	0	155,069
Turtle Mountains	CDCA-307	California Desert	116,480	147,792
Chemehuevi Mountains	CDCA-310	California Desert	61,853	0
Whipple Mountains	CDCA-312	California Desert	72,063	15,270
Big Maria Mountains	CDCA-321	California Desert	0	66,529
Rice Valley	CDCA-322	California Desert	0	48,133
Palen/McCoy	CDCA-325	California Desert	75,665	193,252
Coxcomb Mountains	CDCA-328	California Desert	52,782	18,211
Eagle Mountains	CDCA-334	California Desert	51,434	7,028
Pinto Basin	CDCA-334A	California Desert	0	3,604
Pinto Mountains	CDCA-335	California Desert	0	31,878
Santa Rosa Mountains	CDCA-341	California Desert	47,140	276
Mecca Hills	CDCA-343	California Desert	7,199	10,976
Orocopia Mountains	CDCA-344	California Desert	28,207	22,149
Chuckwalla Mountains	CDCA-348	California Desert	57,030	88,979
Little Chuckwalla Mtns.	CDCA-350	California Desert	0	44,889
Palo Verde Mountains	CDCA-352	California Desert	0	28,293
Indian Pass (Julian Wash)	CDCA-355	California Desert	31,493	891
Picacho Peak (Gavilan)	CDCA-355A	California Desert	5,455	2,179
Little Picacho Peak	CDCA-356	California Desert	0	39,547
North Algodones Dunes	CDCA-360	California Desert	25,716	940
South Algodones Dunes	CDCA-362	California Desert	0	51,375
Jacumba	CDCA-368	California Desert	26,128	4,483
Fish Creek Mountains	CDCA-372	California Desert	15,359	2,267
Coyote Mountains	CDCA-373	California Desert	0	10,954
Carson-Iceberg	NV-030-532	Section 202 Statewide	550	0
<b>TOTAL ACRES</b>			<b>2,263,839</b>	<b>4,823,067</b>













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# Bureau of Land Management



## CALIFORNIA STATEWIDE WILDERNESS STUDY REPORT

Part 2

### Overview



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**Note to Readers: This Overview is Part 2 of a four-part submission.**

- Part 1 is the official Record of Decision signed by the Secretary of the Interior;
- Part 3 is a summary of the National Monuments Expansion recommendations; and
- Part 4 consists of six volumes of the Wilderness Study Reports.

**These documents are available for review or distribution from BLM in the following cities:**

• Washington, DC	• Hollister, CA
• Alturas, CA	• Needles, CA
• Arcata, CA	• Palm Springs, CA
• Bakersfield, CA	• Redding, CA
• Barstow, CA	• Ridgecrest, CA
• Bishop, CA	• Riverside, CA
• Cedarville, CA	• Sacramento, CA
• El Centro, CA	• Susanville, CA
• Folsom, CA	• Ukiah, CA

They are also available in other public locations, such as libraries and county offices. For addresses and phone numbers, contact BLM in Sacramento, 2800 Cottage Way, telephone (916) 978-4730 or in Washington, D.C., 1849 C Street, N.W., telephone (202) 208-6064.

In addition, BLM also has other related information available for review or distribution upon request. These include:

- Environmental Impact Statements;
- U.S. Geological Survey and Bureau of Mines mineral reports;
- WSA listings by county and Congressional districts;
- Detailed reports on minerals in the California Desert;
- California Desert Conservation Area Plan and amendments;
- Wilderness maps;
- and other data that may be helpful to reviewers.



# **BLM-California Wilderness Recommendations**



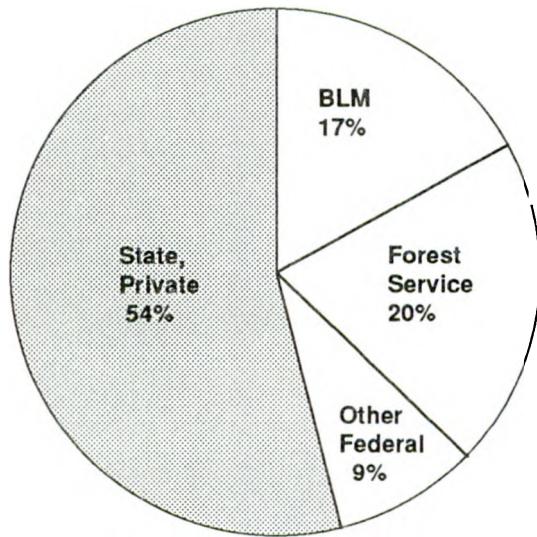
## **Part 2 Overview**



## I. EXISTING WILDERNESS AND PARKS/MONUMENTS

To put these studies and potential designations into perspective, it is useful to review Federal ownership in California, particularly Federal lands already designated wilderness or administered as parks and monuments.

Briefly, California covers **101 million acres**, and about 46 million acres are administered in Federal ownership by various agencies. A listing by agency can be found in the Tables section of this Overview.



### A. Wilderness

About 5.9 million acres of these Federal lands are designated wilderness, managed by these Federal agencies: Forest Service (USFS), 3.9 million acres; National Park Service (NPS), 2 million acres; Bureau of Land Management (BLM), 14,000 acres; and Fish and Wildlife Service (USF&WS), 150 acres. In addition, the State of California has about 440,000 acres of State lands designated as wilderness. A list of these wilderness areas can be found in the Tables section of this Overview.

In total, California currently has about **6.3 million acres** or about 6 percent of its total lands preserved as wilderness in more than 60 separate units. This is more than any other State except Alaska.

In addition, NPS also has recommendations pending in Congress to designate another 1.9 million acres in Death Valley as wilderness. BLM's recommendations to Congress total 2.3 million acres of wilderness.

The combined total of these pending recommendations is about **4.2 million acres**.

If the BLM and NPS recommendations are enacted by Congress, California would have a total of **10.5 million acres** of designated wilderness, about 10 percent of the State or about 22 percent of the Federal estate.

### B. Parks/Monuments

The NPS currently is responsible for managing **4.6 million acres** in California, or about 4 percent of the State. Most of these lands are either National Parks (2 million acres) or National Monuments (2.6 million acres).

If the joint BLM/NPS recommendations to transfer approximately **109,000 acres** from BLM to NPS are enacted by Congress, that percentage would rise slightly. More significantly, four key parcels of land considered by NPS to be important to improving Death Valley and Joshua Tree National Monuments would be transferred from BLM to NPS. Both NPS and BLM feel these lands will improve the manageability of these Monuments' boundaries and combine natural areas and ecosystems now divided by the current agency jurisdictions.

### C. Combined Totals

If these proposals are enacted, lands currently preserved as either parks, monuments, or wilderness in California will climb to **11.2 million acres** or 11 percent of California. These would include lands managed by NPS for either parks, monuments, or wilderness, as well as wilderness managed by other Federal and State agencies.

## II. SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

### A. Wilderness Recommendations

Through a detailed inventory, BLM identified 209 areas, covering 7.1 million acres of public lands in California, that possessed the basic characteristics required by Congress for wilderness study. These wilderness study areas (WSAs) are listed later in this Overview and depicted on the accompanying wilderness map. A detailed wilderness study report (WSR) for each of these areas is included in Part 4 of this submission to Congress.

After evaluating each of these 209 WSAs, BLM is recommending that Congress designate **62 areas, covering 2.3 million acres**, as wilderness. Wilderness designation basically means that these areas will be managed to preserve their natural values and generally no commercial activities, no mechanized equipment, no motorized vehicles, and no developments will be allowed.

BLM is recommending that the remaining 4.8 million acres be released from further wilderness study and be managed under BLM's existing land use plans.

Uses specified for these lands may include protective classifications such as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, intensive recreation uses, commercial activities such as mining or timber production, wildlife habitat management areas, or a number of other uses managed individually or in a balanced combination of activities specified in the land use plan.

These recommendations are based on a step by step process described in detail in Section III of this Overview. Basically, Congress directed BLM to evaluate wilderness characteristics and criteria along with all other resource values identified in the area. This information, along with public comments, was used to determine the areas most suitable for wilderness designation.

BLM concluded that the 62 areas being recommended would complement the existing Federal and State wilderness and significantly expand the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS) by adding the highest quality California areas.

### B. Monument Expansion Recommendations

In conjunction with NPS, BLM is recommending that approximately 109,000 acres of public land in four separate parcels be added to the Joshua Tree and Death Valley National Monuments in southern California. About 81,865 acres of these additions are also recommended by BLM as suitable for wilderness designation.

These recommendations are the result of a joint, interagency review of the Monuments, along with public involvement, initiated in 1988. The goal of the review was to improve the manageability of the Monuments and place natural areas and ecosystems divided by the current boundaries under a single agency's jurisdiction.

These areas are depicted on maps in Section VII of this Overview. A summary of the study and Environmental Impact Statement supporting this recommendation is included in Part 3 of this submission to Congress.

The four parcels include:

- 1) North Death Valley, covering 79,400 acres on the north end of Death Valley National Monument;
- 2) Pyramid Peak, covering 17,000 acres on the eastern boundary of Death Valley;
- 3) North Greenwater Valley, covering 7,400 acres on the eastern boundary of Death Valley; and
- 4) Pinto Basin, covering 4,800 acres on the southern boundary of Joshua Tree National Monument.

Both BLM and NPS concluded that these additions will enhance the two Monuments significantly, adding lands that will improve the manageability of these areas.

### III. WILDERNESS STUDY PROCESS

#### A. Wilderness Characteristics and Additional Criteria

As directed by Congress, BLM reviewed all public lands in California to determine those possessing the basic wilderness characteristics required for wilderness study. These characteristics, specified in the 1964 Wilderness Act included:

- Naturalness — Study areas must be in a generally natural condition;
- Size — Study areas must be at least 5,000 acres or large enough to preserve as wilderness;
- Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive Recreation — Study areas must have outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation;
- Special Features — Study areas may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, scenic, or historical value.

Based on these characteristics, BLM, with the public's help, identified 209 areas covering 7.1 million acres in California that possessed the basic characteristics for study. These areas were designated WSAs.

Each of the 209 WSAs were then studied, evaluating the quality of the four wilderness characteristics. Additional factors were also considered in determining the wilderness recommendation, including management alternatives, geographical distribution, natural diversity, proximity to population centers, manageability, private or State inholdings, grandfathered uses/valid existing rights, motorized vehicle access, and boundaries.

Short descriptions follow of how these four primary and nine secondary evaluation factors were applied during the BLM study of each of the WSAs.

#### • Naturalness

The WSAs in California range from areas in pristine condition to areas, that while still substantially natural, contain some impacts from man's activities. Certain California WSAs contain intrusions such as vehicle access routes (not roads by definition), old mining scars, fences, pipelines, wells, and various other impacts to wilderness which, while not disqualifying them for study, reduce the overall wilderness quality. Generally, the more natural areas are recommended suitable for wilderness, while WSAs or portions of WSAs with numerous intrusions are not recommended for wilderness.

#### • Size

The size of a particular WSA also affects the wilderness recommendation. Larger wilderness areas generally provide greater capability to absorb impacts from outside sights and sounds. These larger areas often contain more diverse natural features and offer greater opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. In some special cases, these WSAs cover less than 5,000 acres; most range from 5,000 acres up to 450,000 acres.

#### • Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation

Some WSAs contain outstanding opportunities for both solitude and primitive recreation, while other WSAs possess outstanding qualities for only one of these values. The solitude or primitive recreation values of some WSAs are clearly superior to the values of other WSAs. Size, topography, vegetative cover, and presence of outside sights and sounds were all considered in evaluating the opportunity for solitude and primitive recreation in each WSA.

- **Special Features**

While not legally required for wilderness study, certain supplemental values enhance an area's overall wilderness quality. Examples include habitat for threatened or endangered species; unusual geologic features, such as sand dunes, river canyons, or coastal beaches; and important cultural values, such as historic sites or archeological remains. A WSA possessing special features was more likely to be recommended for wilderness than a WSA without such features.

- **Management Alternatives**

Wilderness designation generally benefits such values as watershed, air quality, wildlife habitat, native plant communities, scenic quality, and cultural and archeological resources.

Some management practices to support these values, however, are constrained by wilderness designation, including the use of vehicles and mechanized equipment for fire-fighting, gathering of wild horses and burros, wildlife survey and monitoring, development and maintenance of management facilities for wildlife, construction of flood control and diversion structures, excavation of archeological sites, and other important activities.

Each WSA was evaluated to determine if wilderness designation was the most appropriate means of protecting resources or if other management alternatives, such as designation of Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, would result in the highest public and resource benefit.

- **Geographical Distribution**

One of BLM's goals was to complement the existing wilderness in California by adding wilderness areas not broadly represented in the NWPS. The recommendations achieve this goal, by adding areas not widely represented within the NWPS.

This factor is also clearly illustrated by examining the wilderness map contained in this Overview and comparing existing wilderness depicted on the map with BLM's suitable recommendations spread throughout the State.

- **Natural Diversity**

Special effort was made to identify rare or unusual ecosystems or landforms that would expand the diversity currently represented in the NWPS.

Much of the current designated wilderness in California is in the high elevation or forested areas. BLM's recommendations provide the opportunity for Congress to preserve unique desert wilderness, including outstanding examples of the Mojave, Great Basin, and Colorado Desert ecosystems and landforms. Repetitive or common features were not recommended for preservation if better examples were found.

With the objective on quality additions, BLM's recommendations represent the best examples of these ecosystems and landforms.

- **Proximity to Population Centers**

California's burgeoning population, now nearing 30 million, should have the opportunity to enjoy the benefits of wilderness. With this goal in mind, BLM tried to select WSAs close to population centers as suitable for wilderness designation to assure access to as many Californians as possible. Many of these WSAs lie within a day's driving time of California's major population centers.

- **Manageability**

The preservation of wilderness clearly depends on its ability to be preserved in a natural state. This, in turn, depends on a number of factors, including private or State inholdings, grandfathered uses/valid existing rights, motorized vehicle access, and boundary issues. These are explained in more detail in the following sections.

In general, however, BLM used these manageability issues to determine how effectively the potential wilderness area could be managed. This factor is described for each area in the WSRs found in Part 4 of BLM's recommendations.

- **Private and State Inholdings**

As part of the study process, BLM identified all the State or private lands within the WSAs. These are referred to as inholdings. By law, landowners are guaranteed reasonable access to their property.

This access requirement was considered in evaluating the suitability or nonsuitability of each WSA. Large amounts of inholdings were sometimes a factor in a nonsuitability recommendation. In areas determined to be suitable for designation, acquisition of key inholdings were recommended where legal access and use would conflict with wilderness management goals. These acquisition needs are specified in each WSR and are listed in the Tables section of this Overview.

- **Grandfathered Uses/  
Valid Existing Rights**

By law, valid existing rights must be recognized in both WSAs and designated wilderness areas. Many WSAs contain these rights and uses, which include mining, livestock grazing, and other authorized activities. BLM's recommendations take into account these legal rights and consider their potential impact on wilderness preservation.

In general, valid existing rights were not the determining factor affecting BLM's recommendations except where wilderness values were considered marginal. In WSAs recommended suitable for wilderness designation, valid existing rights may be acquired if they conflict with wilderness management.

- **Motorized Vehicle Access**

Existing physical access routes for motorized vehicles are identified in each WSR. These access routes include washes, unimproved or unmaintained ways, and other primitive routes that did not meet Congress' definition of a road, receiving regular use and maintained by mechanical means. In addition, maintained roads often intrude into WSAs and boundaries were drawn around these so-called "cherrystems." Both these situations can impact wilderness values and manageability, as well as public access. Sometimes these unmaintained access routes provide the only practical and safe means of public access to broad areas of public lands. In other situations, proliferation of "cherrystems" might have a negative effect on wilderness quality. BLM's recommendations weighed all these factors, and balanced the need for public access with the importance of maintaining the integrity of high quality wilderness areas.

- **Boundaries**

BLM's recommendations include wilderness boundaries that are clearly defined by surrounding roads, streams, and other physical features wherever possible. WSAs with many "cherrystems," those in long, narrow configurations, or those with irregular boundaries were often recommended as nonsuitable because they would be more vulnerable to outside impacts and would be more difficult to manage effectively as wilderness.

- **B. U.S. Geological Survey and  
U.S. Bureau of Mines Reports**

In the 1976 Federal Land Policy and Management Act directing BLM to conduct wilderness reviews on public lands in California, Congress also directed the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and U.S. Bureau of Mines (BOM) to assess the mineral potential of areas recommended for wilderness designation. These studies were to be in addition to BLM's own evaluation of minerals along with other resource values in WSAs.

The USGS/BOM assessments were completed after BLM's recommendations and should be considered separately by Congress to weigh wilderness recommendations against mineral values. In addition, mineral inventory data are also available from the California Division of Mines and Geology and private industry sources. A comparison of the mineral potential of each WSA known at the time of the study as well as the new USGS/BOM findings are included in the individual WSRs in Part 4 of this report.

The USGS/BOM studies were conducted on what is referred to as the "reconnaissance level." This means the assessments were based on review of published literature, surface and underground geologic mapping and sampling, airborne geophysical surveys, and geochemical studies. No actual drilling programs were conducted because of the prohibitive cost and Congressionally-mandated timeframe. In addition, no USGS-BOM reports were written for areas recommended by BLM as nonsuitable for wilderness designation.

Mineral potential was also evaluated by BLM during the study process. In general, BLM evaluated the potential for occurrence of mineral resources regardless of size or grade of deposits. The USGS/BOM reports evaluated the potential of mineral resources of sufficient size or grade to be developed now or in the foreseeable future. This difference sometimes results in variances in the mineral potential evaluations between the USGS/BOM studies and the BLM reports.

It is important to point out that all these mineral evaluations are professional judgments based upon interpretation of available information only. However, all the reports available agree that the Desert is highly mineralized. Consequently, BLM's recommendations reflect the agency's best attempt to balance wilderness values with existing or potential mineral values known at the time the studies were conducted.

## C. Environmental Impact Statements

As required by the National Environmental Policy Act, BLM completed an environmental impact statement (EIS) on each of the 16 wilderness studies covering all the WSAs.

These studies, including public involvement, were done over an eight-year span. WSAs were grouped according to geographic proximity or other similarities.

These EISs, and their dates of completion, were:

Alturas	1987
Benton Owens Valley/ Bodie/Coleville	1987
California Desert Plan	1980
Central California	1987
Central California 202	1988
Clear Lake	1986
Eagle Lake/Cedarville	1987
Eastern San Diego County	1986
Eastern San Diego County 202	1988
Eden Valley/Thatcher Ridge	1988
King Range/Chemise Mountain	1988
North Central	1987
Red Mountain	1988
Statewide 202	1988
Western Counties	1987
Yuma	1990

The so-called "202" studies are described in the Special Issues section of this Overview. BLM is also required by the Council on Environmental Quality to identify the "environmentally preferred alternative" in each EIS. The WSRs outline these alternatives.

In total, almost 9,000 public comments were received on these studies. Scoping meetings, open houses, and public hearings were held for each EIS. More details on the public comments received follows in the following Public Involvement section. In addition, the WSRs describe public comments individually by WSA.

The EISs are available for review at BLM offices throughout California and in Washington, D.C. Contact BLM in Sacramento (2800 Cottage Way, 95825) for referral information.

## **D. Public Involvement**

Few land management issues in California have sparked as much controversy as wilderness.

A further complication is the differing public perceptions about what wilderness designation really means.

In all of BLM's studies, there was a wide divergence of public opinion on how much wilderness is needed. These ranged from those wanting very little land designated to those wanting a large percentage of public lands designated as wilderness.

BLM could not satisfy both these extremes; generally, the recommendations reflect a balance between these opposing viewpoints. BLM's public involvement goal was to include all interested individuals and groups in the process.

Public involvement in BLM's wilderness review process began in 1978 with the inventory phase. During this phase, which took approximately 2 years, all public lands in California were inventoried to find areas possessing the basic wilderness characteristics for further study. A tremendous amount of public comments, both written and verbal, along with dozens of workshops and other public contacts, guided this process.

Once the inventories were completed, studies on those areas possessing basic wilderness characteristics were conducted on a more localized basis to determine BLM's recommendations. The largest of these studies was the California Desert Plan, which included not only wilderness studies, but a massive, regional land use plan for the 12.5 million-acre area.

Public participation in the Desert Plan was by far the broadest public involvement effort ever undertaken by BLM.

During the inventory phase, two series of workshops were held, involving some 3,500 people. The draft inventory maps and reports were distributed to over 7,000 addresses. Ten public hearings were also held and public opinion polls were taken to determine public attitudes about wilderness and other issues.

In the Desert, the study phase was incorporated into the overall land use planning process. Through a variety of public involvement techniques, more than 40,000 public comments were received and carefully evaluated. BLM's public comment analysis was audited by the California League of Women Voters to assure objectivity.

All these findings indicated general public support for wilderness, but a range of opinions on how much wilderness was desirable. Concerned individuals and groups were sharply divided over the amount of wilderness needed, which areas were appropriate for designation, and whether inclusion in the NWPS was the best means available to protect wildland and open space values.

In the other study areas, the process was similar, although fewer people participated. Nevertheless, the polarization and controversy on wilderness existed in many of the studies.

In the Susanville area, for the Eagle Lake/Cedarville EIS, a different approach was taken.

A public Technical Review Team (TRT) was established among interested groups to provide the BLM with a consensus on wilderness recommendations.

The team toured the WSAs, held open public discussions, gathered information, and eventually reached unanimous agreement on the 6 WSAs in the study. These recommendations were endorsed by both BLM and the District Advisory Council.

Details on the public involvement efforts in the other 14 wilderness studies throughout the State are included in each of the WSRs and in the EISs available for public review from BLM.

## **IV. KEY RESOURCE ISSUES AND STUDY CONCLUSIONS**

More than 75 separate public issues were identified during BLM's wilderness review process, ranging from site-specific concerns to broader, statewide issues. These issues are analyzed in the 16 EISs and further described in the WSRs.

After consolidating related topics, 10 broad resource issues emerged as being most important to the public. Obviously, some of these generated more public interest and controversy than others, but all were considered important by those participating in the wilderness review process.

### **A. Wilderness Values**

By the very nature of the study's objectives, wilderness values were probably the most significant resource issue raised. California possesses a rich variety of potential wilderness lands. This was evident in the 7.1 million acres that at least minimally qualified for wilderness study.

To many people, the term "wilderness" means any undeveloped land. BLM's challenge was to make sure those participating understood the legal meaning of wilderness, both in terms of quality and criteria for selection, and in terms of what wilderness designation actually means, i.e., no motorized access, no commercial development, etc.

**Study conclusions:** The best potential wilderness lands would be preserved through wilderness designation of 2.3 million acres. The remaining 4.8 million acres did not meet the suitability standards and would be better managed through BLM's existing land use plans. Most of the 4.8 million acres would retain their existing natural values and open space under current laws and authorities.

### **B. Mineral and Energy Resources**

In general, wilderness preservation and mineral development are "either/or" propositions. Except for valid existing rights, wilderness designation precludes mineral exploration and development.

To make a wise decision, it is important to evaluate both the quality of the wilderness values and the potential for mineral occurrence. Although wilderness values are subjective, they can be seen, documented, and rated as explained in each of the WSRs.

Minerals deposits, however, are not generally visible, and many lie hundreds of feet below the surface. Where exploration and development have delineated and exposed mineral deposits, scientists are able to quantify commodities and their economic values. For most of the WSAs, no precise quantification of mineral values is possible. Without expensive exploration, drilling, and sampling, mineral potential can be only roughly estimated through interpretation of available data.

Scientists point out that mineral potential is often evaluated according to the current demands of our society, with no ability to judge which minerals may become valuable to society tomorrow through technological advances in electronics, transportation, medicine, and other fields.

Perhaps even more difficult than evaluating what we do know about minerals in these WSAs is judging what we don't know. It has been said of minerals that, "The absence of evidence is not evidence of absence." In other words, mining will never occur where mineral deposits do not exist, but mineral deposits may exist where they are not known today.

This dilemma was perhaps best expressed by the late Dr. Vincent McKelvey, former director of the U.S. Geological Survey and a nationally recognized mineral expert:

"Appraising mineral resources is an emerging science. A final, once and for all 'inventory' of any mineral resource is nonsense. Mineral reserves and resources are dynamic quantities and must be constantly appraised. As known deposits are exhausted, unknown deposits are discovered, new extractive technologies and new uses are developed, and new knowledge indicates new areas and new environments which are favorable for mineral exploration."

This challenge of evaluating mineral resources is not merely an academic argument in California. Nearly \$3 billion worth of non-energy minerals (gold, silver, etc.), and more than \$4 billion in energy minerals (oil, gas, geothermal, etc.) are produced annually within the State.

But California is not just a major producer; its 30 million people consume far more energy and mineral products each year than it produces. The public lands administered by BLM are a major source of these valuable commodities.

Nowhere in the State is this issue of the conflict between mineral development and wilderness values more important than the California Desert. The Desert is a highly mineralized area; it is also where most of BLM's WSAs are found (6.3 million acres out of 7.1 million acres). In addition, southern California's 18 million people place heavy demands on the Desert for both recreational access and mineral resources and products. BLM's task was to balance these competing demands and recommend areas for wilderness designation, thereby putting them "off-limits" to future mineral production.

A tremendous amount of geologic data from many sources, including BOM, USGS, the California Division of Mines and Geology, and BLM's own research, was analyzed and interpreted by professional geologists and engineers during the study process. Each WSR contains summary information on minerals in that area; the USGS/BOM reports are available for public review. More general information on minerals in California and in the Desert in particular are available from a number of published references. One brief summary is USGS Circular 1024, "California's Unique Geologic History and Its Role in Mineral Formation, with Emphasis on the Mineral Resources of the California Desert Region," by David A. Dillinger (1989).

**Study conclusions:** Generally, BLM recommended areas with high known mineral potential and less than outstanding wilderness values as nonsuitable for wilderness preservation. In certain WSAs, however, both high mineral values and outstanding wilderness values were found. In these areas, BLM generally recommended wilderness designation while noting to Congress the known mineral potential that will be foregone.

### C. Motorized Vehicle Access

Like minerals, motorized vehicle access and wilderness preservation are "either/or" propositions. Designated wilderness will be available to the public only on foot or horseback.

This restriction was a significant issue during the review process statewide, and was of particular public concern in the Desert, due to the vastness of the area and its extreme temperatures. The Desert is also within a day's driving time of some 18 million people and is the State's most popular area for off-highway vehicle use.

By definition, BLM's WSAs were roadless, meaning they contain no roads within their boundaries that are constructed, maintained by mechanical means, and continuously used for public access, a Congressional definition. However, these WSAs contain thousands of miles of unmaintained routes and ways frequently used by the public for both general access and recreation.

**Study conclusions:** Frequently used public access routes and their accompanying public activities often severely impacted the quality of WSAs, leading to a nonsuitable recommendation. This resulted in only a small portion of important existing motorized access routes within areas recommended for wilderness designation by BLM. Some displacement to other areas would occur, but the overall impact would be slight. Each WSR identifies the access mileage impacted.

### D. Military Use and National Security

The military services currently have exclusive use of some 3 million acres of land in California, but their training activities in support of national security involve not only substantial additional acreage in the State, but also vast amounts of airspace.

These activities were considered significant aspects of the wilderness studies in the California Desert and the Eagle Lake-Cederville studies.

In the Desert, the major issue was critical military airspace and overflights over the WSAs. Most of the WSAs in the Desert are regularly overflown by military aircraft for research, development, testing, and evaluation of defense weapons. These overflight areas are considered critical to national security because of the availability of fixed ground facilities, ideal weather, suitable terrain, good visibility, lack of conflicts with commercial airspace, distance from population centers, and natural dry lakebeds for emergency landings.

Currently, there are a number of designated military airspace corridors over WSAs, including the R-2508 Airspace Complex, where over 90,000 flights per year are flown. Both supersonic and subsonic flights are involved, with flight altitude minimums of 5,000 feet for supersonic, down to 200 feet for subsonic. The bases using these corridors include China Lake Naval Weapons Center, Chocolate Mountain Gunnery Range, El Toro Marine Air Station, Fort Irwin National Training Center, Miramar Naval Air Station, Tustin Marine Air Station, Twenty-nine Palms Marine Base, Yuma Marine Base, and the Edwards, George, Lemore, March, and Nellis Air Force Bases.

Another key national security issue in the Desert was the existence of certain important minerals. Four separate government agencies have determined that there are 26 mineral or energy commodities in the Desert classified as "strategic and critical" to the national defense of the United States.

Proximity to military facilities is also an issue in the Eagle Lake-Cedarville wilderness study concerning the Sierra Army Depot. There was concern by the Army and the Lassen County Board of Supervisors about the potential impact of a suitable recommendation for the Skedaddle WSA on the Depot's activities.

**Study conclusions:** BLM worked closely with the Department of Defense in developing its recommendations to consider present and future national security needs.

Generally, the overflights were not considered to be sufficiently detrimental in themselves to warrant a nonsuitability recommendation for wilderness. Legislative language in the BLM's proposal clearly states that wilder-

ness designation imposes no restriction on military overflights. The legislative proposal also resolved the Sierra Army Depot's concerns by stating that a suitable designation for Skedaddle WSA would not impair the present mission or future growth of the depot.

## E. Private and State Inholdings

A quick look at the WSA map at the back of this Overview clearly demonstrates the issue of private and state-owned lands, called inholdings, located within the boundaries of the WSAs. Approximately 490,000 acres of privately owned and 230,000 acres of State-owned lands are found within the 209 WSAs.

The presence of inholdings had two major effects on BLM's wilderness studies. First, large amounts of inholdings often negatively impacted an area's suitability, either because they affected size, opportunities for outstanding solitude or primitive recreation, or long-term manageability.

Second, in areas recommended suitable for wilderness, current law states that BLM must plan for reasonable access for these landowners. Often, this access may be incompatible with wilderness management or prove to be too restrictive to the landowner.

The BLM may acquire these inholdings with the consent of the landowner only when their potential development or use would be incompatible with long-term wilderness management. This policy would also apply to acquisition of mineral rights within wilderness.

Any acquisition of these inholdings would be subject to the land acquisition priorities established by the Department using Administration established criteria.

**Study conclusions:** BLM recommended as nonsuitable for wilderness designation areas where inholdings had a significant impact on wilderness values or future manageability. In areas recommended suitable despite inholdings, the WSRs clearly identify specific lands that should be acquired to ensure long-term wilderness preservation. These total 62,000 acres of State lands and 69,000 acres of private lands.

Any state land and some private land would be acquired through exchange with administrative processing costs estimated to be \$1.7 million. We estimate that the costs of acquiring any private land that could not be acquired through exchange is approximately \$1.2 million. See Table J for a summary.

#### **F. Recreation Use**

Recreation use is one of the fastest growing activities on public lands in California. An estimated 30 million recreation visits involving more than 20 different types of activities take place on the public lands annually and a significant portion of that use occurs in WSAs. This is especially true of WSAs in the Desert.

Some types of recreation are compatible with wilderness and will benefit from wilderness designation. Examples include hiking, horseback riding, nature study, photography, and camping. Other types of activities are also compatible with wilderness, but the need for motorized vehicle access may limit their availability. Examples include hunting and rock-hounding. Still other types of recreation are not compatible with wilderness. Examples include recreational vehicle camping and off-highway vehicle recreation.

**Study conclusions:** BLM has carefully balanced its recommendations to provide the public the optimum range of recreation benefits, while protecting areas with high wilderness values.

For example, areas with high wilderness values and popular for recreation activities compatible with wilderness designation were generally recommended suitable for designation. In areas where access was critical, BLM carefully drew wilderness boundaries to allow close access while recommending the core areas as suitable wilderness. Areas heavily used for motorized vehicle activities were generally recommended nonsuitable. Finally, consideration was also given to providing some flexibility for future recreational needs, both for activities compatible and noncompatible with wilderness designation.

#### **G. Wildlife and Plant Habitats**

The 209 BLM WSAs contain a wide diversity of wildlife habitat and plant values. As explained earlier, one of the factors considered in the study process was special features, such as threatened or endangered plant and animal species, and other habitat considerations. Another factor considered was diversity of natural systems and features, which often includes biological values.

In most cases, wilderness designation can be beneficial to wildlife and plants species. However, the prohibition on motorized access and mechanical equipment does restrict active management of many species, including building artificial support systems, such as water developments for bighorn sheep and other habitat improvements.

**Study conclusions:** Each WSR was evaluated for its special features, including wildlife habitats and plants. In some areas, the benefits of wilderness protection were weighed against the need for habitat manipulation to help determine the best wilderness recommendation.

#### **H. Utility and Communication Facilities**

California's growing urban populations depend on utility lines and communication facilities for their electric, gas, water, communications, and other utilities. Such networks frequently span hundreds of miles and tie to regional and interstate networks. In addition, the need for such facilities grows along with the State's burgeoning populations.

The BLM's land use planning system provides for appropriate and environmentally acceptable locations for current and long-range utility and communications facilities. These land use plans and their identified utility corridors and other planned facilities were fully considered in BLM's wilderness recommendations.

**Study conclusions:** These planned corridors and facility locations were generally avoided in BLM's suitable recommendations, allowing continued operation and maintenance of existing facilities, as well as future expansion and addition of new facilities.

### I. Livestock Grazing

Domestic livestock grazing is important in many public land areas of California. Overall, 58,000 cattle and 89,000 sheep are grazed on the public lands in California each year, generating fees to the public treasury and income to stockmen and ranching communities throughout the State.

WSAs in northeastern California and the East Mojave region of the California Desert have traditionally been part of that use.

Grazing is permitted by law in areas designated as wilderness and existing levels of grazing could be maintained. However, wilderness designation would restrict increased grazing levels, development of new range improvements, and some livestock grazing techniques.

**Study conclusions:** Grazing use was one of the factors considered in the overall evaluation of wilderness suitability. Generally, BLM's suitable recommendations will have a slight to moderate impact on the affected grazing operations.

### J. Timber Harvesting

Although commercial timber harvesting is a significant activity on some public land areas in California, only eight WSAs contain commercial forest lands, totalling 11,500 acres. These commercial forest lands vary from cut-over, brush-covered areas to stands containing good quality commercial timber.

However, steep slopes, lack of access, and extensive brush make intensive management uneconomic on these tracts.

**Study conclusions:** Since little valuable commercial timber is affected, the economic impacts of the BLM's wilderness recommendations due to timber harvest restrictions will be slight.

## V. SPECIAL STUDY ISSUES

### A. Section 202 Studies

"Section 202" refers to the part of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act that gives the Secretary of the Interior and BLM the authority to plan for public land uses. This includes studying areas for wilderness designation as a management option or areas that did not have the minimum wilderness characteristics on their own, but only when combined with the contiguous lands of another agency.

BLM's inventory identified 56 areas that qualified for wilderness study through this authority, referred to as Section 202 WSAs.

However, 12 areas were dropped from study through the 1984 California Wilderness Act when the contiguous U. S. Forest Service (USFS) lands were released from further wilderness study.

Generally, Section 202 WSAs were studied in the same manner as other WSAs, except that they were evaluated in the context of the adjoining areas' wilderness values and the managing agency's recommendations.

Of the 44 Section 202 WSAs that are studied in this report, 4 were recommended suitable and considered logical additions to already designated Federal or State wilderness areas. The remaining 40 areas were not recommended for wilderness, either because the managing agency, in all cases the USFS, dropped the area from further wilderness consideration or did not feel the BLM areas made suitable additions due to topography or other factors.

Although BLM has the authority under the Act to drop these nonsuitable areas from further wilderness consideration, they are submitted with these recommendations for Congressional review and concurrence to provide a comprehensive analysis of all BLM wilderness studies in California.

### B. Instant Study Areas

In Section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (the BLM's basic authority to study public lands for wilderness), Congress stated that all areas that were being managed by BLM as primitive or natural areas

when the Act was passed (October 21, 1976) would automatically be studied for wilderness. These are referred to as "Instant Study Areas" (ISAs).

There were six such areas in California : Baker Cypress/Lava; Bitterbrush; Chemise Mountain; Negit Island; Piute Cypress; and San Benito. Negit Island has since been transferred to the USFS by Congress. The remaining five and their recommendations are part of this report to Congress. Baker Cypress/Lava ISA is part of the Timbered Crater WSA; Chemise Mountain ISA is part of the larger Chemise Mountain WSA; and the other three are included as separate WSAs.

In 1980, both the Bitterbrush and San Benito Mountain ISAs were studied for their suitability for wilderness designation. These recommendations, along with ISAs in other states, were forwarded to Congress in 1985. However, Congress did not take action on these recommendations. In order to show the complete wilderness situation in California, the recommendations for Bitterbrush and San Benito Mountain are included in this statewide package.

### **C. Bureau of Land Management/Forest Service Joint Studies**

Two BLM areas in California, Rockhouse (not to be confused with Rockhouse Section 202 WSA CA-010-029) and Benton Range, contiguous to USFS lands in the Inyo and Sequoia National Forests, have been incorporated into wilderness studies underway for those Forests. They are not included as part of this BLM report.

The completed Sequoia National Forest Plan recommends 12,564 acres of the Rockhouse WSA suitable and 23,533 acres non-suitable. The completed Inyo National Forest Plan recommends all 4,052 acres of the Benton Range WSA as nonsuitable. These recommendations will be submitted to Congress by the Forest Service.

### **D. Arizona BLM WSAs In California**

Because of jurisdictional efficiencies and better public service, the Arizona State Office of

the BLM manages some public lands in California, including eight WSAs. A list of these WSAs can be found in the Tables section of this Overview.

These WSAs are bordered by the Colorado River on the east and the California Desert Conservation Area boundary on the west. These recommendations are consistent with the recommendations for the adjacent BLM WSAs managed by BLM's Desert District.

### **E. California BLM WSAs In Nevada**

For the same efficiency/public service reasons, BLM's California State Office manages land in the northwestern part of Nevada, including several WSAs. BLM's Susanville District evaluated 12 such WSAs in the Eagle Lake-Cederville EIS.

Recommendations for the two WSAs located mostly within California (Five Springs and Skedaddle WSAs) are included with this report.

Recommendations for the other 10 WSAs will be included in the Nevada Statewide wilderness report when it is submitted to Congress.

Three of these 10 WSAs also cross the State line, but are largely located in Nevada. The remaining WSAs are located wholly within Nevada.

### **F. Mineral Patent for Lands In the Fish Creek WSA**

In January 1990, a minerals patent was issued to U.S. Gypsum for 152.51 acres. One hundred seven of these acres were within that portion of the Fish Creek WSA preliminarily recommended for wilderness designation. The area now recommended for wilderness excludes these 107 acres from its western edge. This change was made because once the patent was issued, the BLM could no longer control activities that might impair or destroy wilderness values on the patented parcel. A supplemental statement is included with the wilderness study report explaining the changes in the appropriate sections of this report.

## VI. List and Acreages of Wilderness Study Areas

<u>WSA Name</u>	<u>WSA Number</u>	<u>Acres Recommended</u>		<u>County</u>	<u>WSR Volume</u>
		<u>Suitable</u>	<u>Non-Suitable</u>		
Agua Tibia	CA-060-002	344	0	Riverside	2
Amboy Crater	CDCA-304A	0	12,527	San Bernardino	6
Antelope Spring	CDCA-107A	0	1,054	Inyo	3
Avawatz Mountains	CDCA-221	0	101,000	San Bernardino	4
Beauty Mountain	CA-060-020G	0	11,364	Riverside, San Diego	2
Big Butte	CA-050-211	0	2,408	Mendocino, Trinity	2
Big Maria Mountains	CDCA-321	0	66,529	Riverside	6
Big Maria Mtns. North AD.	AZ-050-018	0	495	Riverside	2
Big Maria Mtns. South AD.	AZ-050-019	0	1,431	Riverside	2
Bigelow Cholla Garden	CDCA-290	0	10,105	San Bernardino	6
Bighorn Mountains	CDCA-217	11,068	41,525	San Bernardino	4
Bitterbrush	CA-020-604	0	640	Lassen	N/A
Black Mountain	CDCA-186C	0	8,986	San Bernardino	4
Blackwater Well	CDCA-173	0	7,896	San Bernardino	4
Bodie	CA-010-100	0	16,482	Mono	1
Bodie Mountain	CA-010-099	0	23,934	Mono	1
Bristol/Granite Mtns.	CDCA-256	43,232	64,024	San Bernardino	5
Cady Mountains	CDCA-251	0	77,015	San Bernardino	5
Caliente Mountain	CA-010-042	0	17,590	San Luis Obispo	1
Carizzo Gorge	CA-060-025A	15,408	0	San Diego	3
Carson-Iceberg	NV-030-532	550	0	Alpine	2
Casa Diablo	CA-010-082	0	5,325	Mono	1
Castle Peaks	CDCA-266	43,519	3,824	San Bernardino	5
Cedar Roughs	CA-050-331	0	5,875	Napa	2
Cerro Gordo	CA-010-055	0	14,079	Inyo	1
Cerro Gordo Peak	CDCA-124	0	54,081	Inyo	3
Chemehuevi Mountains	CDCA-310	61,853	0	San Bernardino	6
Chemehuevi Mtns. AD.	AZ-050-003	0	193	San Bernardino	2
Chemehuevi/Needles AD.	AZ-050-004	938	0	San Bernardino	2
Chemise Mountain	CA-050-111	4,143	0	Humboldt, Mendocino	2
Chidago Canyon	CA-010-079	0	19,702	Mono	1
Chuckwalla Mountains	CDCA-348	57,030	88,979	Imperial, Riverside	6
Cima Dome	CDCA-238B	0	20,989	San Bernardino	5
Cinder Cones	CDCA-239	41,701	11,842	San Bernardino	5
Clark Mountain	CDCA-227	0	14,275	San Bernardino	5
Cleghorn Lakes	CDCA-304	0	26,324	San Bernardino	6
Clipper Mountains	CDCA-260	0	43,448	San Bernardino	5
Coso Range	CDCA-131	0	26,486	Inyo	3
Cottonwood Creek	CDCA-104	0	6,466	Inyo	3
Cow Heaven	CDCA-159	0	8,155	Kern	4
Coxcomb Mountains	CDCA-328	52,782	18,211	Riverside, San Bernardino	6
Coyote Mountains	CDCA-373	0	10,954	Imperial	6
Crater Mountain	CA-010-062	0	7,069	Inyo	1
Darwin Falls	CDCA-132A	0	7,438	Inyo	3
Dead Mountains	CDCA-276	0	34,727	San Bernardino	6
Dead Mtns. North AD.	AZ-050-001	0	2,029	San Bernardino	2
Dead Mtns. South AD.	AZ-050-002	0	903	San Bernardino	2
Deer Spring	CDCA-237A	0	2,293	San Bernardino	5
Domeland	CA-010-032	0	2,223	Kern	1

## VI. List and Acreages of Wilderness Study Areas (Cont'd)

<u>WSA Name</u>	<u>WSA Number</u>	<u>Acres Recommended</u>	<u>Non-Suitable</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>WSR Volume</u>
		<u>Suitable</u>	<u>Non-Suitable</u>		
Eagle Mountains	CDCA-334	51,434	7,028	Riverside	6
Eden Valley	CA-050-214	0	6,166	Mendocino	2
Eight-Mile Tank	CDCA-245	0	22,473	San Bernardino	5
El Paso Mountains	CDCA-164	13,986	6,688	Kern	4
Essex	CDCA-288A	0	13,331	San Bernardino	6
Excelsior	CA-010-088	0	9,383	Mono	1
Fish Creek Mountains	CDCA-372	15,359	2,267	Imperial	6
Fish Slough	CA-010-080	0	14,700	Inyo, Mono	1
Five Springs	CA-020-609	0	49,206	Lassen, Washoe	2
Fort Piute	CDCA-267	34,854	11,232	San Bernardino	5
Frog Creek	CDCA-163	0	10,399	Kern	4
Funeral Mountains	CDCA-143	23,004	33,392	Inyo	4
Garcia Mountain	CA-010-012	0	80	San Luis Obispo	1
Golden Valley	CDCA-170	29,113	10,292	San Bernardino	4
Granite Mountain	CA-010-090	0	54,178	Mono	1
Grass Valley	CDCA-173A	0	15,098	San Bernardino	4
Great Falls Basin	CDCA-132	0	6,039	Inyo	3
Greenwater Range	CDCA-147	0	145,454	Inyo	4
Greenwater Valley	CDCA-148	22,811	35,689	Inyo	4
Hauser Mountain	CA-060-027C	0	5,540	San Diego	3
Hollow Hills	CDCA-228	0	29,187	San Bernardino	5
Horse Canyon	CDCA-160	0	4,595	Kern	4
Hunter Mountain	CDCA-123	20,030	6,579	Inyo	3
Ibex Hills	CDCA-149	0	39,111	Inyo	4
Ibex Spring	CDCA-149A	0	2,669	Inyo, San Bernardino	4
Independence Creek	CA-010-057	0	6,458	Inyo	1
Indian Pass (Julian Wash)	CDCA-355	31,493	891	Imperial	6
Inyo Mountains	CDCA-122	58,392	47,843	Inyo	3
Jacumba	CDCA-368	26,128	4,483	Imperial	6
Kelso Dunes	CDCA-250	46,405	110,017	San Bernardino	5
Kelso Mountains	CDCA-249	0	74,992	San Bernardino	5
Kelso Peak	CDCA-160B	0	7,297	Kern	4
King Range	CA-050-112	20,248	13,237	Humboldt	2
Kingston Range	CDCA-222	34,369	248,562	Inyo, San Bernardino	4
Last Chance Mountain	CDCA-112	0	40,254	Inyo	3
Lava	CA-030-203	0	10,770	Shasta	2
Lava Hills	CDCA-258	0	23,141	San Bernardino	5
Little Chuckwalla Mtns.	CDCA-350	0	44,889	Imperial, Riverside	6
Little Lake Canyon	CDCA-157	32,225	819	Inyo	4
Little Picacho Peak	CDCA-356	0	39,547	Imperial	6
Little Picacho Peak AD.	AZ-050-035	0	2,925	Imperial	2
Little Sand Spring	CDCA-119	35,792	0	Inyo	3
Lower Saline Valley	CDCA-117A	2,154	4,264	Inyo	3
Machesna	CA-010-108	0	70	San Luis Obispo	1
Manly Peak	CDCA-137	0	31,754	Inyo	4
Marble Mountains	CDCA-259	0	36,455	San Bernardino	5
Masonic Mountain	CA-010-102	0	6,493	Mono	1
McAfee Creek	CDCA-100	0	438	Mono	3
Magee/Atkins	CDCA-237	0	13,371	San Bernardino	5
Mecca Hills	CDCA-343	7,199	10,976	Riverside	6
Merced River	CA-040-203	0	12,959	Mariposa	1
Mesquite Mountains	CDCA-225	0	50,957	San Bernardino	5
Mesquite Spring	CDCA-251A	0	18,648	San Bernardino	5

## VI. List and Acreages of Wilderness Study Areas (Cont'd)

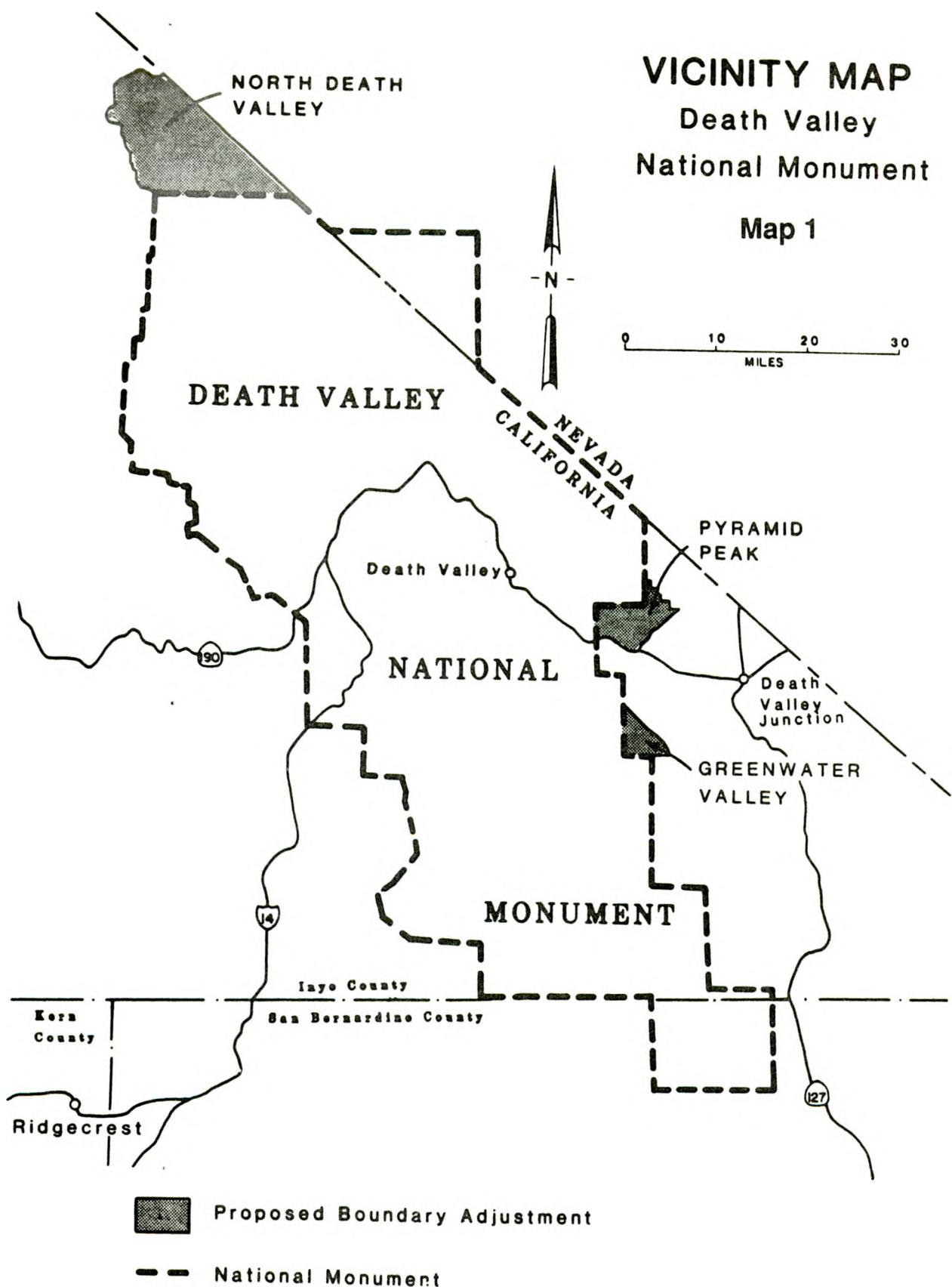
<u>WSA Name</u>	<u>WSA Number</u>	<u>Acres Recommended</u>		<u>County</u>	<u>WSR Volume</u>
		<u>Non-Suitable</u>	<u>Suitable</u>		
Mid Hills	CDCA-264	0	16,979	San Bernardino	5
Middle Park Canyon	CDCA-137A	0	9,538	Inyo	4
Milk Ranch/Case Mtn.	CA-010-023	0	8,970	Tulare	1
Mormon Meadow	CA-010-094	0	7,721	Mono	1
Morongo	CDCA-218	6,410	0	San Bernardino	4
Mount Biedeman	CA-010-095	0	13,069	Mono	1
Newberry Mountains	CDCA-206	20,291	4,078	San Bernardino	4
New York Mountains	CDCA-265	0	43,980	San Bernardino	5
Nopah Range	CDCA-150	79,868	47,051	Inyo	4
North Algodones Dunes	CDCA-360	25,716	940	Imperial	6
North Argus Range	CDCA-132B	0	27,348	Inyo	3
North Coso Range	CDCA-130	0	10,103	Inyo	3
North Death Valley	CDCA-118	0	13,302	Inyo	3
North Mesquite Mountain	CDCA-223	0	28,124	San Bernardino	5
North Tip	CDCA-100A	0	252	Mono	3
N.W. Fishlake Valley	CDCA-102	0	14,737	Mono	3
Old Dad Mountain	CDCA-243	0	57,036	San Bernardino	5
Old Woman Mountains	CDCA-299	0	116,505	San Bernardino	6
Orocopia Mountains	CDCA-344	28,207	22,149	Riverside	6
Owens Peak	CDCA-158	26,113	27,045	Inyo, Kern	4
Owens Peak	CA-010-026	15,897	8,231	Inyo, Kern, Tulare	1
Owlshead Mountains	CDCA-156	121,912	3,427	San Bernardino	4
Pahrump Valley	CDCA-154	0	34,289	Inyo, San Bernardino	4
Palen/McCoy	CDCA-325	75,665	193,252	Riverside	6
Palo Verde Mountains	CDCA-352	0	28,293	Imperial, Riverside	6
Panamint Dunes	CDCA-127	90,626	16,181	Inyo	3
Panoche Hills North	CA-040-301A	0	6,631	Fresno	1
Panoche Hills South	CA-040-301B	0	11,229	Fresno	1
Picacho Peak (Gavilan)	CDCA-355A	5,455	2,179	Imperial	6
Pilot Peak	CDCA-295	0	30,526	San Bernardino	6
Pinnacles	CA-040-303	1,983	3,966	Monterey, San Benito	1
Pinto Basin	CDCA-334A	0	3,604	Riverside	6
Pinto Mountains	CDCA-335	0	31,878	Riverside, San Bernardino	6
Piper Mountain	CDCA-115	0	70,793	Inyo	3
Pit River Canyon	CA-020-103	7,443	4,281	Lassen	2
Piute Cypress	CA-010-046	0	3,453	Kern	1
Piute Mountains	CDCA-288	0	20,279	San Bernardino	6
Providence Mountains	CDCA-263	59,681	2,265	San Bernardino	5
Rainbow Wells	CDCA-244	0	21,887	San Bernardino	5
Red Mountain	CDCA-172	0	6,561	San Bernardino	4
Red Mountain	CA-050-132	0	6,244	Mendocino	2
Resting Spring Range	CDCA-145	0	100,960	Inyo	4
Rice Valley	CDCA-322	0	48,133	Riverside	6
Rockhouse	CA-010-029	0	130	Tulare, Inyo	1
Rocky Creek/Cache Creek	CA-050-317	0	33,561	Lake, Yolo	2
Rodman Mountains	CDCA-207	17,630	12,289	San Bernardino	4
Sacatar Meadows	CA-010-027	10,721	6,739	Tulare, Inyo	1
Sacramento Mountains	CDCA-292	0	34,582	San Bernardino	6
Saddle Peak Mountains	CDCA-219	0	9,134	San Bernardino	4
Saline Dunes	CDCA-121	0	6,311	Inyo	3
Saline Valley	CDCA-117	392,643	58,084	Inyo	3
San Benito Mountain	CA-040-309	0	1,500	San Benito	N/A
San Felipe Hills	CA-060-023	0	5,325	San Diego	2
Santa Rosa Mountains	CDCA-341	47,140	276	Riverside	6
San Ysidro Mountain	CA-060-022	0	2,125	San Diego	2

## VI. List and Acreages of Wilderness Study Areas (Cont'd)

<u>WSA Name</u>	<u>WSA Number</u>	<u>Acres Recommended</u>	<u>Non-Suitable</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>WSR Volume</u>
		<u>Suitable</u>	<u>Non-Suitable</u>		
Sawtooth Mountains A	CA-060-024A	0	3,883	San Diego	2
Sawtooth Mountains B	CA-060-024B	22,875	2,916	San Diego	2
Sawtooth Mountains C	CA-060-024C	0	2,454	San Diego	2
Shadow Valley	CDCA-235A	0	9,660	San Bernardino	5
Sheephole/Cadiz	CDCA-305	0	155,069	San Bernardino	6
Sheep Ridge	CA-010-022	0	5,102	Tulare	1
Ship Mountains	CDCA-300	0	24,757	San Bernardino	6
Signal Hill	CDCA-272	0	35,693	San Bernardino	5
Silurian Valley	CDCA-222A	0	18,318	San Bernardino	5
Skedaddle	CA-020-612	37,644	24,366	Lassen, Washoe	2
Skinner Peak	CDCA-160C	0	1,586	Kern	4
Slate Range	CDCA-142	44,536	56,029	Inyo	4
Sleeping Beauty Mnts.	CDCA-252	0	23,282	San Bernardino	5
Slinkard	CA-010-105	0	6,268	Mono, Alpine	1
Soda Mountains	CDCA-242	0	118,537	San Bernardino	5
South Algodones Dunes	CDCA-362	0	51,375	Imperial	6
South Avawatz Mountains	CDCA-221A	0	26,621	San Bernardino	4
South Bristol Mountains	CDCA-258A	0	27,056	San Bernardino	5
South Nopah Range	CDCA-150A	0	5,759	Inyo	4
South Providence Mtns.	CDCA-262	24,238	7,352	San Bernardino	5
South Saddle Peak Mtn.	CDCA-220	0	6,190	San Bernardino	4
South Warner Contiguous	CA-020-708	1,161	3,169	Modoc	2
Southern Inyo	CA-010-056	28,291	8,610	Inyo	1
Southern Otay Mountain	CA-060-029	6,783	1,272	San Diego	3
Stateline	CDCA-225A	0	8,764	San Bernardino	5
Stepladder Mountains	CDCA-294	0	125,754	San Bernardino	6
Surprise Canyon	CDCA-136	0	58,398	Inyo	3
Sylvania Mountains	CDCA-111	0	18,984	Inyo	3
Symmes Creek	CA-010-064	0	7,694	Inyo	1
Table Mountain	CDCA-270	0	8,452	San Bernardino	5
Table Mountain	CA-060-026	0	1,018	San Diego	3
Teutonia Peak	CDCA-238A	0	2,783	San Bernardino	5
Thatcher Ridge	CA-050-212	0	16,918	Mendocino	2
Timbered Crater	CA-030-201	0	17,896	Modoc, Shasta, Siskiyou	2
Toler Creek	CDCA-101	0	1,122	Mono	3
Tule Mountain	CA-020-211	0	16,998	Lassen, Modoc	2
Tunnison Mountain	CA-020-311	7,889	11,995	Lassen	2
Turtle Mountains	CDCA-307	116,480	147,792	San Bernardino	6
Valley View	CDCA-237B	0	3,233	San Bernardino	5
Ventana Contiguous	CA-040-308	0	676	Monterey	1
Volcanic Tableland	CA-010-081	0	12,499	Inyo, Mono	1
Walford Springs	CA-010-092	0	12,840	Mono	1
Waucoba Wash	CDCA-120	0	14,115	Inyo	3
Western Otay Mountain	CA-060-028	4,323	1,435	San Diego	3
Whipple Mountains	CDCA-312	72,063	15,270	San Bernardino	6
Whipple Mtns. AD.	AZ-050-010	1,343	120	San Bernardino	2
Whitewater	CDCA-218A	11,169	2,707	San Bernardino, Riverside	4
White Mountain	CDCA-103	0	8,766	Mono, Inyo	3
Wildrose Canyon	CDCA-134	14,079	27,708	Inyo	3
Woods Mountains	CDCA-271	0	44,162	San Bernardino	5
Wyman Creek	CDCA-105	0	7,292	Inyo	3
Yolla Bolly Contiguous	CA-030-501	0	646	Tehama	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>2,263,839</b>	<b>4,823,067</b>		

**VICINITY MAP**  
Death Valley  
National Monument

Map 1



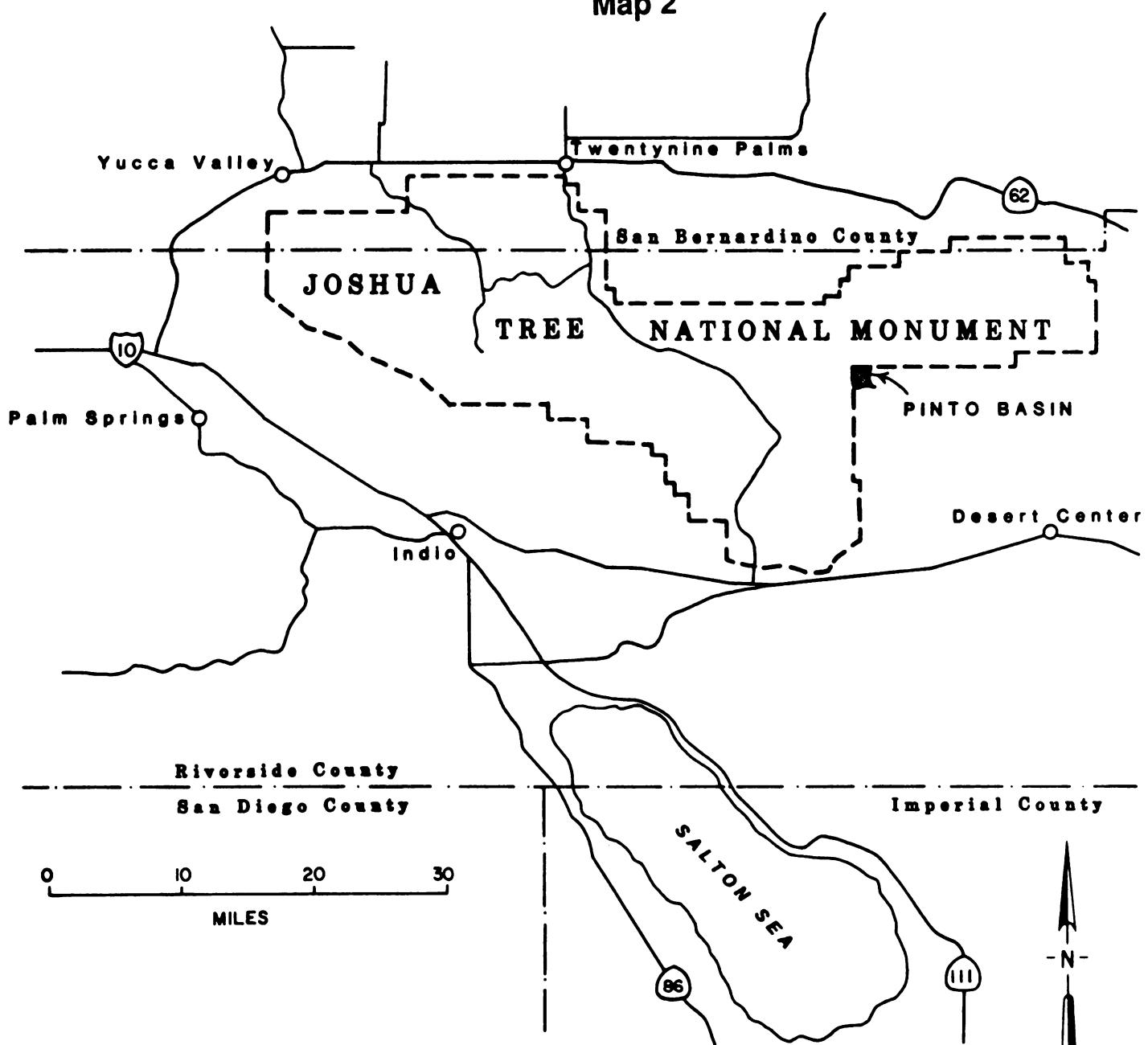
■ Proposed Boundary Adjustment

— National Monument

# VICINITY MAP

## Joshua Tree National Monument

Map 2



■ Proposed Boundary Adjustment

--- National Monument

## VIII. TABLES

**Table A. FEDERAL LAND OWNERSHIP IN CALIFORNIA  
Before and After Enactment of Recommendations**

<u>Current Status</u>			<u>Status After Enactment of Recommendations</u>		
<u>Agency</u>	<u>Acres (millions)</u>	<u>Percent of State (100.5 million acres total)</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Acres (millions)</u>	<u>Percent of State (100.5 million acres total)</u>
BLM	17.1	17%	BLM	17.0	17%
USFS	20.4	20%	USFS	20.4	20%
USF&WS	.1	less than 1%	USF&WS	.1	less than 1%
DOD	4.0	4%	DOD	4.0	4%
NPS	4.6	5%	NPS	4.7	5%
Other Fed. Agencies	.3	less than 1%	Other Fed. Agencies	.3	less than 1%
Total	46.5	48%		46.5	48%

**Table B. Land Ownership in the California Desert Conservation Area, Before and After Enactment of Recommendations**

<u>Current Status</u>			<u>Status After Enactment of Recommendations</u>		
<u>Ownership/ Management</u>	<u>Acres (millions)</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Ownership/ Management</u>	<u>Acres (millions)</u>	<u>Percent</u>
BLM	12.1	47%	BLM	12.0	47%
Private	6.0	23%	Private	6.0	23%
DOD	3.1	12%	Military	3.1	12%
NPS	2.5	10%	Ntnl. Park Service	2.6	10%
State	.5	2%	State	.5	2%
Other	1.4	6%	Other	1.4	6%
Total	25.6	100%	Total	25.6	100%

**Table C. Summary of Wilderness Designations in California Before and After Enactment of Recommendations**

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Current Wilderness Acreage</u>	<u>Wilderness Acreage After Enactment of Recommendations</u>
BLM	13,861	2,195,835
NPS	1,990,034	2,071,899
USFS	3,921,218	3,921,218
USF&WS	141	141
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,925,254</b>	<b>8,189,093</b>

**Table D. Summary of Wilderness Designation in the California Conservation Area Before and After Enactment of Recommendations**

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Current Wilderness Acreage</u>	<u>Wilderness Acreage After Enactment of Recommendations</u>
BLM	0	1,993,990
NPS	429,690	511,555
USFS	0	0
USF&WS	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>429,690</b>	<b>2,505,545</b>

Table E. List of Designated Wilderness in California

WILDERNESS	AGENCY	ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT	ACRES
Ishi	BLM	Ukiah District	240
Machesna Mountain	BLM	Bakersfield District	120
Santa Lucia	BLM	Bakersfield District	1,733
Trinity Alps	BLM	Ukiah District	4,623
Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel	BLM	Ukiah District	7,145
Agua Tibia	FS	Cleveland National Forest(NF)	15,933
Ansel Adams	FS	Inyo, Sierra NF	230,258
Bucks Lake	FS	Plumas NF	21,000
Caribou	FS	Lassen NF	20,625
Carson-Iceberg	FS	Toiyabe NF	158,628
Castle Crags	FS	Shasta - Trinity NF	8,627
Charchelulla	FS	Shasta - Trinity NF	8,200
Cucamonga	FS	Angeles, San Bernardino NFs	12,781
Desolation	FS	Eldorado NF	63,475
Dick Smith	FS	Los Padres NF	67,800
Dinkey Lakes	FS	Sierra NF	30,000
Dome Land	FS	Sequoia NF	93,781
Emigrant	FS	Stanislaus NF	112,277
Golden Trout	FS	Inyo, Sequoia NFs	303,511
Granite Chief	FS	Tahoe NF	19,048
Hauser	FS	Cleveland NF	7,547
Hoover	FS	Inyo, Toiyabe NFs	48,601
Ishi	FS	Lassen NF	41,099
Jennie Lakes	FS	Sequoia NF	10,289
John Muir	FS	Inyo, Sierra NFs	580,323
Kaiser	FS	Sierra NF	22,700
Machesna Mountain	FS	Los Padres NF	19,760
Marble Mountain	FS	Klamath NF	241,744
Mokelumne	FS	Eldorado, Stanislaus Toiyabe NFs	98,921
Monarch	FS	Sequoia, Sierra NF	44,896
Mount Shasta	FS	Shasta - Trinity NF	33,845
North Fork	FS	Six Rivers NF	7,999
Pine Creek	FS	Cleveland NF	13,480
Red Buttes	FS	Rogue River NF	16,150
Russian	FS	Klamath NF	12,000
San Gabriel	FS	Angeles NF	36,118
San Gorgonio	FS	San Bernardino NF	56,722
San Jacinto	FS	San Bernardino NF	32,248
San Mateo Canyon	FS	Cleveland NF	38,484
San Rafael	FS	Los Padres NF	150,980
Santa Lucia	FS	Los Padres NF	18,679
Santa Rosa	FS	San Bernardino NF	13,787
Sheep Mountain	FS	Angeles, San Bernardino NFs	41,883
Siskiyou	FS	Klamath, Siskiyou Six Rivers NFs	152,680
Snow Mountain	FS	Mendocino NF	36,370
South Sierra	FS	Inyo, Sequoia NFs	82,084

Table E. List of Designated Wilderness in California (Con't)

WILDERNESS	AGENCY	ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT	ACRES
South Warner	FS	Modoc NF	70,614
Thousand Lakes	FS	Lassen NF	16,355
Trinity Alps	FS	Klamath, Shasta, Trinity, Six Rivers NFs	498,141
Ventana	FS	Los Padres NF	164,178
Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel	FS	Mendocino, Trinity, Six Rivers NFs	146,696
Farallon	FWS	Farallon Refuge	141
Joshua Tree	NPS	Joshua Tree NM	429,690
Lassen Volcanic	NPS	Lassen Volcanic NP	78,982
Lava Beds	NPS	Lake Beds NM	28,460
Phillip Burton	NPS	Point Reyes NSS	25,370
Pinnacles	NPS	Pinnacles NM	12,952
Sequoia-Kings Canyon	NPS	Sequoia-Kings Canyon NP	736,980
Yosemite	NPS	Yosemite NP	677,600

Table F. Mining Claims in Wilderness Study Areas

Within Areas Recommended as Suitable			Within Areas Recommended as Nonsuitable		
Lode	Placer	Total	Lode	Placer	Total
2,276	1,439	3,715	9,662	3,351	13,013

Table G. Section 202 Wilderness Study Areas

<u>WSA Name</u>	<u>WSA No.</u>	<u>Acres Rec. Wilderness</u>	<u>Acres Not Rec. Wilderness</u>
Agua Tibia	CA-060-002	344	0
Antelope Spring	CDCA-107A	0	1,054
Big Butte	CA-050-211	0	2,408
Carson-Iceberg	NV-030-531	550	0
Cottonwood Creek	CDCA-104	0	6,466
Deer Spring	CDCA-237A	0	2,293
Domeland	CA-010-032	0	2,223
Garcia Mtn.	CA-010-012	0	80
Horse Canyon	CDCA-160	0	4,595
Ibex Spring	CDCA-149A	0	2,669
Machesna	CA-010-108	0	70
McAfee Creek	CDCA-100	0	438
Milk Ranch/Case Mtn.	CA-010-023	0	8,970
North Tip	CDCA-100A	0	252
Pinto Basin	CDCA-334A	0	3,604
Rockhouse	CA-010-029	0	130
S. Warner Contiguous	CA-020-708	1,161	3,169
San Ysidro Mountain	CA-060-022	0	2,125
Sawtooth Mtn. A	CA-060-024A	0	3,883
Sawtooth Mtn. C	CA-060-024C	0	2,454
Sheep Ridge	CA-010-022	0	5,102
Skinner Peak	CDCA-160C	0	1,586
Table Mtn.	CA-060-026	0	1,018
Teutonia Peak	CDCA-238A	0	2,783
Toler Creek	CDCA-101	0	1,122
Valley View	CDCA-237B	0	3,233
Ventana Contiguous	CA-040-308	0	676
Yolla Bolly Contiguous	CA-030-501	0	646

**Table H. California Managed BLM Wilderness Study Areas in Nevada**

WSA Name	WSA Number	CA or NV Submissions	Acres Recommended Suitable	Acres Recommended Nonsuitable
Five Springs	CA-020-609	California	0	49,206
Skedaddle	CA-020-612	California	37,644	24,366
Dry Valley Rim	CA-020-615	Nevada	52,400	41,900
Buffalo Hills	CA-020-619	Nevada	0	46,100
Twin Peaks	CA-020-619A	Nevada	54,900	35,900
Wall Canyon	CA-020-805	Nevada	0	46,300
Little High Rock Canyon	CA-020-913	Nevada	17,200	33,800
Yellow Rock Canyon	CA-020-913A	Nevada	0	12,500
High Rock Canyon	CA-020-913B	Nevada	12,000	22,800
E. Fork High Rock Canyon	CA-020-914	Nevada	29,100	23,500
Sheldon Contiguous	CA-020-1012	Nevada	700	23,000
Massacre Rim	CA-020-1013	Nevada	22,500	78,800

**Table I. Arizona Managed BLM Wilderness Study Areas Located in California**

<b>WSA Name</b>	<b>WSA Number</b>	<b>California</b>	<b>California</b>
		<b>Acres Recommended Suitable</b>	<b>Acres Recommended Nonsuitable</b>
Dead Mtns. Northern Addition	AZ-050-001	0	2,029
Dead Mtns. Southern Addition	AZ-050-002	0	903
Chemehuevi Mtns. Addition	AZ-050-003	0	193
Chemehuevi-Needles Addition	AZ-050-004	938	0
Whipple Mtns. Addition	AZ-050-010	1,343	120
Big Maria Mtns. Northern Add.	AZ-050-018	0	495
Big Maria Mtns. Southern Add.	AZ-050-019	0	1,431
Little Picacho Peak Addition	AZ-050-035	0	2,925

Table J. WSA Inholdings Recommended for Acquisition

WSA Name	WSA Number	Priv. Acres	State Acres	Acquisition Costs <sup>1</sup>	Processing Costs \$
Big Horn Mountains	CDCA-217	365	0	0	4,000
Bristol/Granite Mtns.	CDCA-256	40	1,280	4,000	10,500
Castle Peaks	CDCA-266	80	640	8,000	6,500
Chemehuevi Mountains	CDCA-310	22,920	2,560	266,000	304,500
Chuckwalla Mountains	CDCA-348	110	2,960	11,000	36,500
Cinder Cones	CDCA-239	0	2,280	0	16,000
Coxcomb Mountains	CDCA-328	800	2,460	80,000	58,000
Eagle Mountains	CDCA-334	0	2,530	0	16,000
Fort Piute	CDCA-267	1,280	0	0	6,500
Funeral Mountains	CDCA-143	240	1,200	24,000	18,000
Golden Valley	CDCA-170	100	0	0	2,500
Greenwater Valley	CDCA-148	0	1,360	0	12,000
Hunter Mountain	CDCA-123	0	35	0	0
Indian Pass	CDCA-355	14	640	0	8,000
Jacumba	CDCA-368	974	640	98,200	44,000
Kelso Dunes	CDCA-250	20	3,160	32,000	22,500
King Range	CA-050-112	160	0	785,000	Unknown
Kingston Range	CDCA-222	0	1,480	0	16,000
Little Lake Canyon	CDCA-157	120	0	7,500	7,500
Little Sand Spring	CDCA-119	0	640	0	4,000
Mecca Hills	CDCA-343	200	0	20,000	12,500
Morongo	CDCA-218	1,280	0	192,000	5,000
Newberry Mountains	CDCA-206	6,752	640	144,000	50,000
Nopah Range	CDCA-150	600	3,440	15,000	24,850
North Algodones Dunes	CDCA-360	586	200	58,600	18,000
Orocopia Mountains	CDCA-344	8,994	1,640	825,000	388,700
Owens Peak	CDCA-158	1,055	0	105,000	10,000
Owens Peak	CA-010-026	368	0	0	4,000
Owlhead Mountains	CDCA-156	0	7,520	0	48,000
Palen/McCoy	CDCA-325	930	3,560	157,200	35,500
Panamint Dunes	CDCA-127	0	2,480	0	16,000
Pit River Canyon	CA-020-103	740	0	0	21,700
Providence Mountains	CDCA-263	230	2,800	11,000	40,500
Rodman Mountains	CDCA-207	4,930	640	327,000	35,500
Saline Valley	CDCA-117	0	8,100	0	76,000
Santa Rosa Mountains <sup>2</sup>	CDCA-341	11,153	0	4,583,900	131,000
Sawtooth Mountains B	CA-060-024B	1,960	0	980,000	10,000
Skedaddle	CA-020-612	160	0	24,000	2,500
Southern Otay Mountain <sup>2</sup>	CA-060-029	481.1	0	2,641,000	14,000
South Providence Mtns.	CDCA-262	600	1,280	Unknown	39,500
Tunnison Mountain	CA-020-311	80	0	12,000	5,000
Turtle Mountains	CDCA-307	0	3,145	0	20,000
Western Otay Mountain	CA-060-028	640	0	1,380,000	31,000
Whipple Mountains	CDCA-312	40	3,040	2,000	22,500
Whitewater	CDCA-218A	200	0	20,000	12,500
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>69,202.1</b>	<b>62,350</b>	<b>12,813,400</b>	<b>1,667,250</b>

<sup>1</sup> This represents the cost to purchase private lands which can not be exchanged. All State and some private lands will be acquired through exchange. In these cases the only cost to the government will be administrative costs of transfer.

<sup>2</sup> Includes Split Estate Surface/Federal Subsurface.







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# Bureau of Land Management



# CALIFORNIA STATEWIDE WILDERNESS STUDY REPORT

Part 3

## National Monuments Expansion



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## NATIONAL MONUMENTS EXPANSION SUMMARY

Since development of the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan, in 1980, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and National Park Service (NPS) have worked cooperatively to improve the manageability of the lands each administers. As a part of these efforts, both agencies have been involved in studies examining adjustments to the boundaries of the Joshua Tree and Death Valley National Monuments. The purpose of these adjustments is to provide more manageable borders that will not split ecological and topographic land areas.

These studies were conducted in 1988. Five parcels of land administered by the BLM totalling 247,000 acres were studied for possible transfer from the BLM to the Joshua Tree and Death Valley National Monuments. The transfer of these parcels was examined in an environmental impact statement (EIS) prepared by the BLM, NPS, and Bureau of Mines (BOM). Based on this EIS, further review of management and administrative needs, and public review, four parcels totalling nearly 109,000 acres were eventually proposed for transfer to the NPS. Of this amount, three parcels totalling 103,774 acres are proposed for transfer to Death Valley National Monument. The fourth parcel, totalling 4,800 acres is proposed for transfer to Joshua Tree National Monument.

The Secretary of the Interior concurs with these recommendations and has forwarded them to Congress for their review and action.

### Introduction

The Joshua Tree National Monument and the majority of the Death Valley National Monument are located in southern California. A small portion of Death Valley (roughly 15 percent) is located in southern Nevada. The Death Valley region includes Inyo and San Bernardino Counties in California and Esmeralda and Nye Counties in Nevada. It is one of the largest areas in the National Park System, consisting of 2,067,628 acres. The Joshua Tree region includes Riverside and San Bernardino Counties in California and consists of 560,000 acres. Both are surrounded by millions of acres administered by the BLM which are managed for their recreation, grazing, mining, and wildlife habitat values.

At present, portions of the monument boundaries divide natural topographic areas, split the habitat of bighorn sheep, deer, or burro herds, and are located in open desert areas making them difficult to identify and administer. Over the last few years the BLM and NPS have been studying boundary adjustments for ways to improve these boundaries.

As a result of this, the BLM and NPS originally studied the possibility of transferring 5 parcels of public lands currently managed by the BLM to the Death Valley and Joshua Tree National Monuments. These parcels totalled 247,349 acres and are depicted on Maps 1 and 2. In Death Valley, 242,849 acres were considered for transfer. The parcels studied included: Parcel 1, North Death Valley (84,389 acres); Parcel 2, Hunter Mountain (26,687 acres); Parcel 3, Pyramid Peak (14,268 acres); and Parcel 4, Greenwater Valley (117,505 acres). The remaining area, Parcel 5, Pinto Basin (4,500 acres), is adjacent to Joshua Tree.



To assess the effects of the proposed transfer, the BLM initiated an EIS, with the cooperation of the NPS and the BOM. The Draft EIS was released in July 1988 for a 90-day public comment period. Based on comments obtained during the public comment period, consideration of resource data, and further review of management and administrative needs, The Monuments Final EIS, describing the BLM/NPS final recommendation, was released in April 1989.

### **Recommendation and Rationale**

Under the BLM/NPS recommendation outlined in the Final EIS, 108,574 acres of public land currently administered by the BLM would be transferred to the National Park System for inclusion in the two monuments.

#### **Death Valley National Monument**

In Death Valley, the boundaries would be adjusted to include 79,389 acres in Parcel 1, 16,998 acres in Parcel 3, and 7,387 acres in Parcel 4, for a total of 103,774 acres of land.

##### **Parcel 1 - North Death Valley (84,389 acres studied; 79,389 to be transferred)**

North Death Valley is located on the extreme north end of the Monument (see Map 3). This area is a topographic extension of Death Valley. Under the BLM/NPS recommendation, 79,389 acres of the parcel would be transferred to the NPS to perfect Death Valley as an ecosystem and enhance the manageability of the area. The remainder of the area studied -- roughly 5,000 acres -- would be retained by the BLM. This area is highly mineralized, having a moderate to high potential for the occurrence of mercury, sulphur, gypsum and gold and includes a number of mining claims.

##### **Parcel 2 - Hunter Mountain (26,687 acres studied; 0 acres to be transferred)**

Hunter Mountain is located on the western boundary of the Monument. Under the BLM/NPS recommendation the parcel would not be transferred to the NPS but would be retained and managed by BLM. Hunter Mountain is not an integral part of Death Valley. Public reaction to this proposal plus a variety of resource values and uses (such as grazing, hunting, and mining) indicated that multiple-use management within the CDCA was the most appropriate management of the area.

##### **Parcel 3 - Pyramid Peak (14,268 acres studied; 16,998 acres to be transferred)**

Pyramid Peak lies along the eastern boundary of the Monument within the Funeral Mountains (see Map 4). Under the BLM/NPS recommendation the boundaries of the area studied would be modified to include 3,180 acres northeast of the parcel and exclude 450 acres in the southeast portion of the parcel. These modifications would avoid two problems created by the original boundary proposal. First, as originally proposed, the transfer would leave the proposed Funeral Mountains wilderness with a long, narrow extension to the north. The modification resolves this by transferring the extension to the Monument. Second, the southeastern corner of the original parcel included an area with high potential for sand and gravel resources, as well as 640 acres of land belonging to the State of California. The modified boundary eliminates this conflict.



**Parcel 4 - Greenwater Valley (117,505 acres studied; 7,387 acres to be transferred)**

Greenwater Valley lies along the eastern boundary of Death Valley National Monument (see Map 5). Under the BLM/NPS recommendation, a small triangular-shaped parcel which encompasses the Greenwater Historic District, totaling 7,387 acres, would be transferred to the NPS. This would permit single-agency management and interpretation of the historic district. The recommendation would also allow the closing and better control of access to Copper Canyon, an area of sensitive paleontological resources. The remainder of the parcel would be retained and managed by the BLM. This area contains numerous mining properties and roads, and little compelling reason to transfer the area from the CDCA and multiple-use management.

**Joshua Tree National Monument**

In Joshua Tree, the boundary would be adjusted to include 4,800 acres in Parcel 5.

**Parcel 5 - Pinto Basin (4,500 acres studied; 4,800 acres to be transferred)**

Pinto Basin lies along the southern boundary of Joshua Tree National Monument and is topographically related to the adjacent Monument lands (see Map 6). Under the BLM/NPS recommendation, the entire parcel and an additional 300 acres would be transferred to the NPS. In addition, the eastern boundary of the parcel will be moved eastward about one-quarter mile. This will create vehicular closure to the area and provide a more enforceable boundary.

**Summary of Environmental Consequences**

The potential impacts of this recommendation on several issues identified during the initial scoping process were considered in the selection of the preferred alternative and were the focus of the environmental analysis. These issues included the effects of the proposed transfer on sensitive wildlife species (particularly desert bighorn sheep), sensitive plants, livestock grazing, wild horse and burros, Native American concerns and cultural resources, existing land use authorizations (e.g., rights-of-way), manageability, recreation, wilderness preservation, and the exploration and development of mineral resources. A detailed discussion of these impacts can be found in The Monuments Final EIS, (April 1989). A summary of these impacts is included below.

1. **Wildlife** - With the exception of Parcel 5, Pinto Basin, desert bighorn sheep are found within portions of each of the parcels studied. Several artificial wildlife watering sources (guzzlers) have been installed and are currently being maintained in Parcel 1, North Death Valley, and Parcel 3, Pyramid Peak, to improve desert bighorn sheep habitat. Under the BLM/NPS recommendation these guzzlers would continue to be maintained unless it was determined that the facilities are no longer needed to maintain the bighorn sheep population. The BLM will retain Parcel 2, Hunter Mountain, but the number of cattle grazing along the Death Valley Monument boundary would be adjusted through the implementation of the Allotment Management Plan currently being prepared for the area. Construction of additional water sources for livestock, desert bighorn sheep and deer would also be considered. As a result of these measures, desert bighorn sheep and deer habitat would improve.



2. **Botany** - The springs and seeps at and near Big and Little Sand Springs within the area transferred to the NPS in Parcel 1, North Death Valley, support an Unusual Plant Assemblage and a population of the rare plant, the Sodaville milk vetch. Under the BLM/NPS recommendation potential impacts to the milk vetch would be curtailed. The exclosure of Big Sand Spring would be completed and maintained by the NPS as long as needed to protect the area's resources; all burros would be removed from the area; and more restrictive mining regulations would be imposed. These restrictions would ensure protection of Big Sand Springs and some of the rare plant population.
3. **Livestock Grazing** - Hunter Mountain, Parcel 2, includes a portion of the Hunter Mountain livestock grazing allotment. In recent years, the use of this parcel has been up to 450 animal unit months per year. Under the BLM/NPS recommendation, this use would continue. In addition, the permittee would continue to use and maintain the existing water diversion (the Hunter Mountain Pipeline) this is the only permanent source of water in the Hunter Mountain Allotment, and sustains the permittee's current livestock operations and provides a valuable water source for deer and bighorn sheep. Livestock operations would be eliminated in North Death Valley, Parcel 1, once the current grazing lease expires (ten years from the date of issuance), but this would have little or no impact on the lessee's current livestock operations.
4. **Wild Horses and Burros** - There has been historic wild horse and burro use of the North Death Valley and Hunter Mountain allotments (portions of Parcels 1 and 2), resulting in numerous impacts on other resources. Several thousand animals have been removed from these parcels in the past few years. However, animals continue to drift into the parcels, requiring an ongoing removal program. Under the BLM/NPS recommendation these animals would continue to be removed. As a result, impacts to sensitive wildlife and plants would be reduced.
5. **Cultural Resources** - Many sensitive archaeological sites are found throughout the study area. In addition, portions of the area are of cultural and religious significance to contemporary Native American communities. Neither the cultural resources nor Native American values would be adversely affected by this recommendation. Livestock grazing would be eliminated on those parcels transferred to the NPS and mining activities would be restricted reducing the potential effect of these activities on the area's cultural resources and Native American communities.
6. **Existing Land Use Authorizations** - Several land use authorizations have been granted in the study area. These include public water reserves, and rights-of-way for utility lines and roads. In addition, much of the study area is within a military airspace zone used for aircraft training, research and development. Use of this airspace has increased significantly over the past decade and is expected to remain high. Under the BLM/NPS recommendation, there would be no effect on any existing right-of-way or other authorized surface use. No future linear right-of-way would be available within those parcels transferred to NPS, but this will have little or no impacts as little demand is anticipated. There would also be no adverse impact on currently designated military flight training routes.



7. Management Presence - Since recently doubling its ranger force, BLM has increased its capability to establish and maintain a field presence in critical locations throughout the desert, including many parts of the study area. Under the BLM/NPS recommendation, however, additional field presence would be provided by the NPS as the frequency of ranger patrols and staff visitations increase, especially in North Death Valley, Parcel 1, and Pinto Basin, Parcel 5. In addition, the transfer of these parcels would enhance the manageability of the monuments, creating boundaries that are easy to identify, on the ground, and reduce incompatible uses of the monuments.
8. Recreation - Recreation use throughout the study area is low. Current recreation uses are primarily vehicle-dependent activities such as hunting, off-highway vehicle touring, etc. Under the BLM/NPS recommendation, these uses would not change appreciably--motorized vehicle access would still be permitted on designated roads on those portions of the North Death Valley, Parcel 1, Pyramid Peak, Parcel 3, and Greenwater Valley, Parcel 4, transferred to NPS and on Hunter Mountain which would be retained by BLM, thereby maintaining a broad range of recreational diversity on these parcels. Only non-motorized types of recreation use would be allowed to continue in Pinto Basin, benefiting primitive types of recreation use such as hiking and backpacking. Consumptive recreational pursuits such as rockhounding, hunting, and trapping would not be allowed on those parcels transferred to NPS but the impacts would be negligible based on low current and projected visitor use.
9. Wilderness - Roughly half of the lands within the study area (131,702 acres) have been recommended as suitable for wilderness designation. Under the BLM/NPS recommendation, 81,865 acres of these lands would be transferred to Death Valley National Monument and managed as wilderness. As a result, wilderness values would remain unchanged. Although consumptive recreation uses such as hunting, rock collecting, and trapping would not be permitted under NPS administration, current and projected use levels for these activities are low, so no significant impact on wilderness values is anticipated. Recreation use opportunities would also be unaffected. The following is a summary of the acreage recommended suitable for wilderness by wilderness study area (WSA).

#### Parcel 1 - North Death Valley

Over 85 percent of the North Death Valley parcel (72,709 acres) is recommended suitable for wilderness. All of the lands within the parcel are within portions of three WSAs -- Saline Valley (CDCA-117), North Death Valley (CDCA-118), and Little Sand Spring (CDCA-119). The Saline Valley WSA consists of 450,727 acres; 392,643 acres are recommended suitable for wilderness. Approximately 30,295 acres of these lands are recommended for transfer to the NPS. The North Death Valley WSA consists of 13,302 acres and lies entirely within the area recommended for transfer to the NPS. None of these lands are recommended suitable for wilderness designation. Little Sand Spring WSA consists of 35,792 acres and lies entirely within the area recommended for transfer to the NPS. These lands are all recommended suitable for wilderness designation.



### Parcel 2 - Hunter Mountain

The parcel studied is within the Hunter Mountain WSA (CDCA-123). Approximately, 20,030 acres of the WSA have been recommended as suitable for wilderness designation and 6,579 acres have been recommended as nonsuitable for wilderness designation. None of this parcel is recommended for transfer to the NPS.

### Parcel 3 - Pyramid Peak

The Pyramid Peak parcel is entirely within the Funeral Mountians WSA (CDCA-143). The WSA consists of 56,396 acres of which 23,004 acres are recommended suitable for wilderness designation. Approximately 15,778 acres of the area recommended suitable for wilderness designation (85 percent of the parcel) would be transferred to the NPS. The remainder of the parcel, 1,220 acres, are not recommended suitable for wilderness designation, and would also be transferred to NPS.

### Parcel 4 - Greenwater Valley

The entire parcel is within the 58,500 acre Greenwater Valley WSA (CDCA-148). The entire WSA has been recommended as nonsuitable for wilderness designation.

### Parcel 5 - Pinto Basin

The parcel contains the Pinto Basin WSA (CDCA-334A). The entire WSA has been recommended as nonsuitable for wilderness designation.

10. Mineral Resources - Implementation of the BLM/NPS recommendation would have a moderate impact on the future mineral exploration and development of the areas transferred to the NPS. Lands transferred to NPS would be subject to more stringent mining regulations causing significant increases in overhead costs of starting and continuing mining operations. New mining claims could not be located within the areas transferred to the NPS. Most of the valuable mineralized areas, however, have been dropped from areas recommended for transfer to the NPS, thereby allowing the continued exploration and development of mineral resources in these areas.

In summary, the BLM/NPS recommendation is the environmentally preferred alternative because it will create no additional significant, adverse environmental impacts. In addition, all practicable means to avoid or minimize environmental harm have been adopted. Based on the analysis performed by BLM and NPS, the recommendation would also enhance the manageability of the two monuments.

### Summary of Public Involvement

On May 31, 1988, a Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement was announced in the Federal Register. The notice included a description of the proposed transfers and the times and location of five public meetings.



Immediately after the publication of the Notice of Intent, a news release concerning the project and announcing the scoping meetings was released. The news release was sent to media throughout southern California, and to the California Desert District's general mailing list (about 6,000 individuals and organizations).

Five public scoping meetings were held in California between June 14 and June 17. Two meetings were held in Riverside (June 14; about 25 persons attended each meeting). Other meetings were held in Palm Springs (June 15; 20 attendees), Ridgecrest (June 16; 35 attendees), and Independence (June 17; 55 attendees).

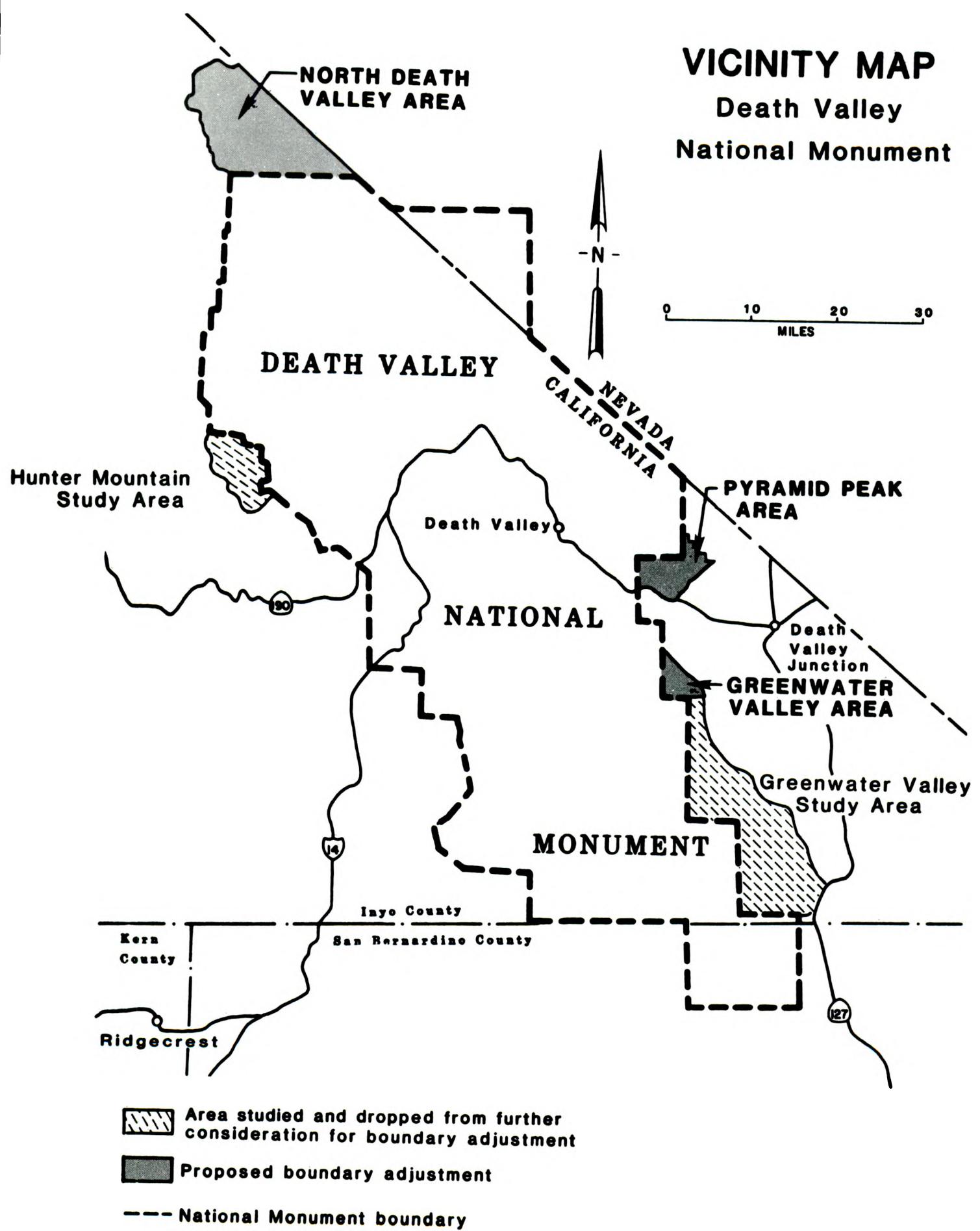
The stated purpose of the meetings was to allow the public to identify those issues that should be addressed in the EIS. Letters were also accepted from the public during the scoping process. Over 50 letters were received by the BLM.

The public review period for the Draft EIS began July 29, 1988. During the 90 day public comment period (which ended October 27, 1988), six formal public hearings were held in California to solicit comments on the draft EIS. These hearings were held in Riverside (two meetings), Palm Springs, Ridgecrest, Lone Pine and Tecopa Hot Springs. The BLM received 115 letters addressing the draft EIS during the public comment period. All letters were reviewed and analyzed. Comments that presented new data, questions or issues bearing directly on the effects of the proposed land transfer to the Monuments were responded to and, where appropriate, Draft EIS sections were revised.



# VICINITY MAP

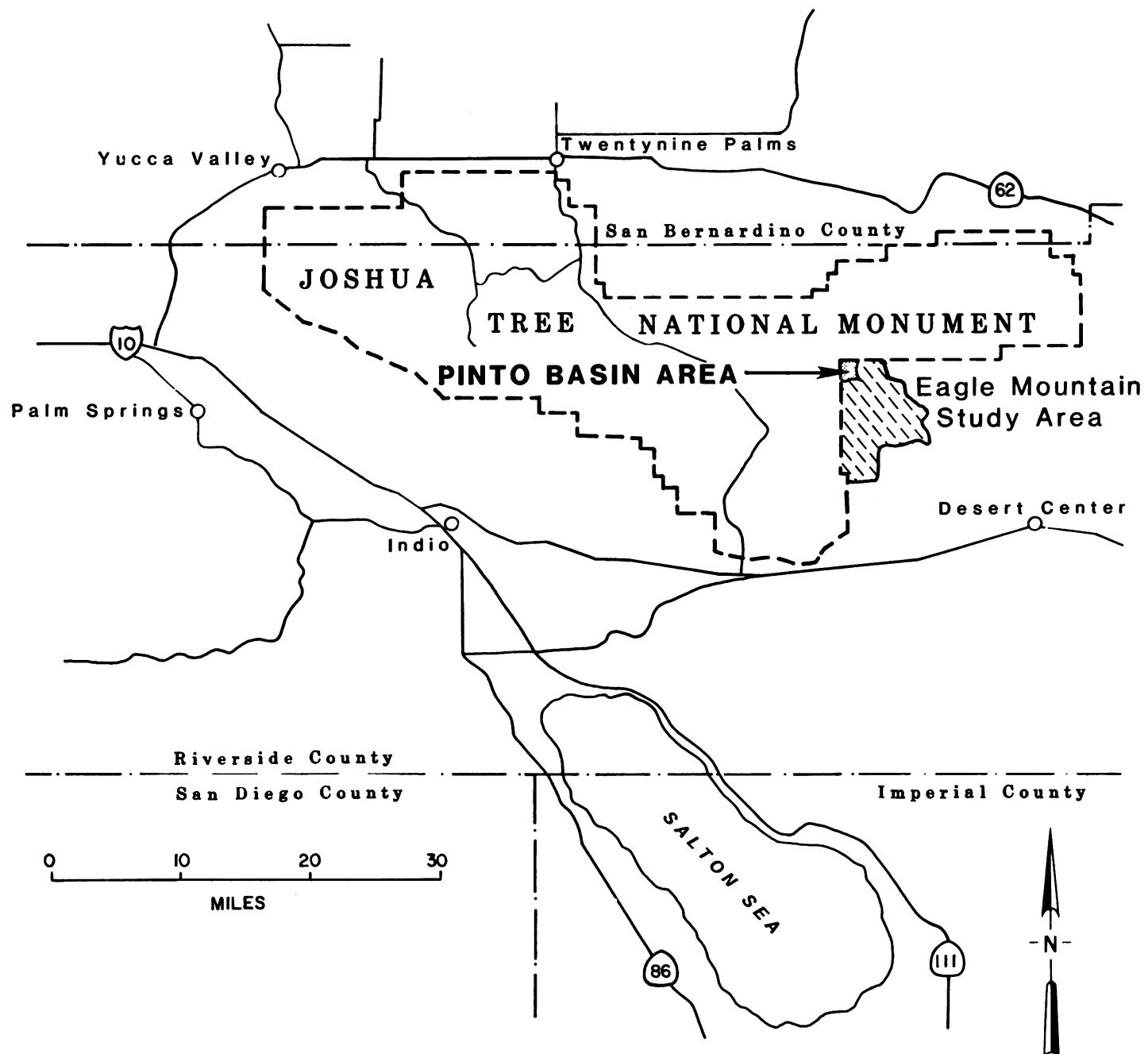
## Death Valley National Monument





# VICINITY MAP

## Joshua Tree National Monument



Area studied and dropped from further consideration for boundary adjustment

Proposed boundary adjustment

— — — National Monument boundary

MAP-2

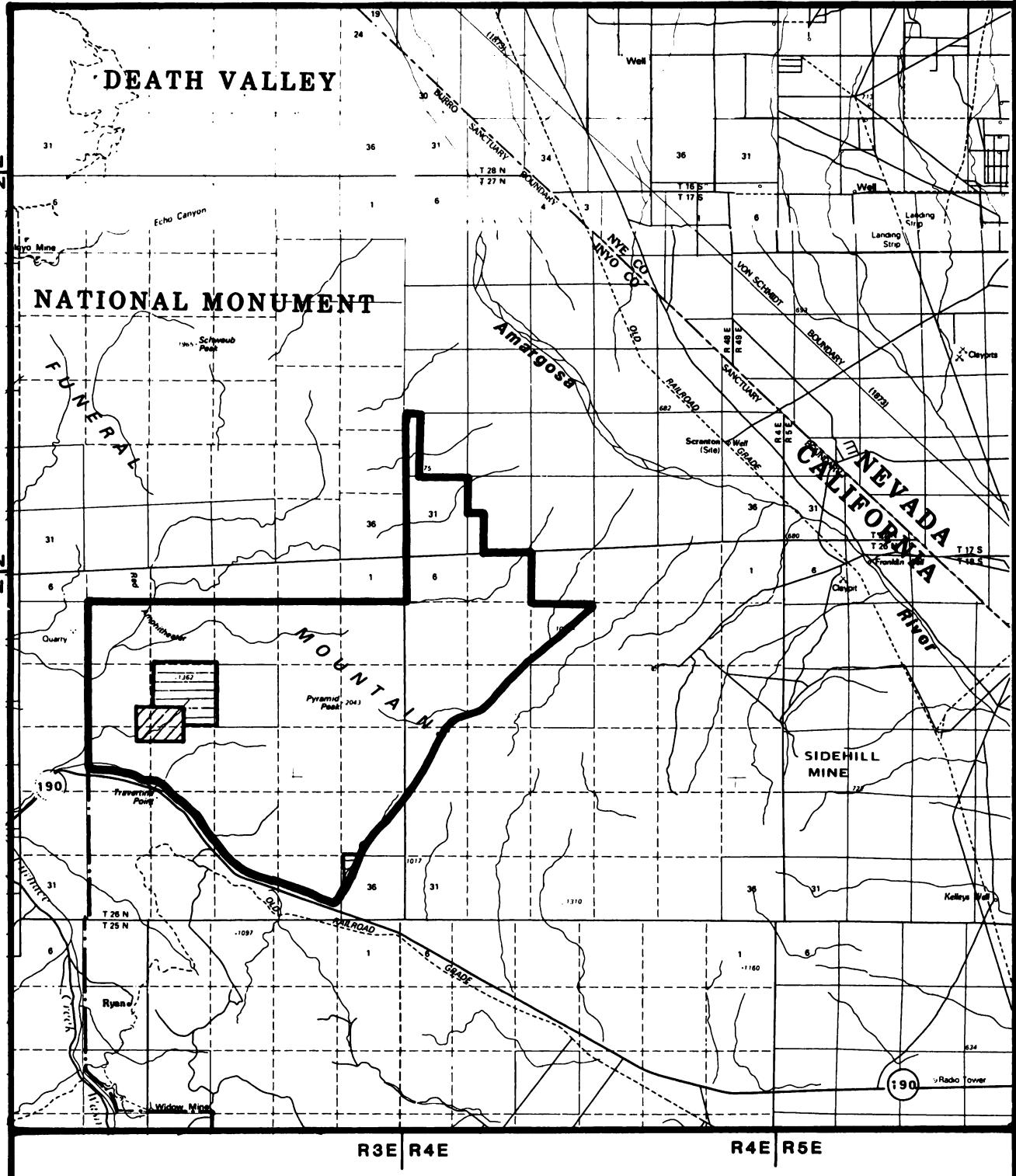


# DEATH VALLEY

T28N  
T27N

# NATIONAL MONUMENT

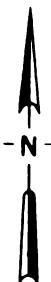
T27N  
T26N



RECOMMENDED FOR  
NATIONAL MONUMENT

STATE LAND

PRIVATE LAND

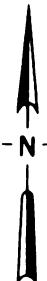
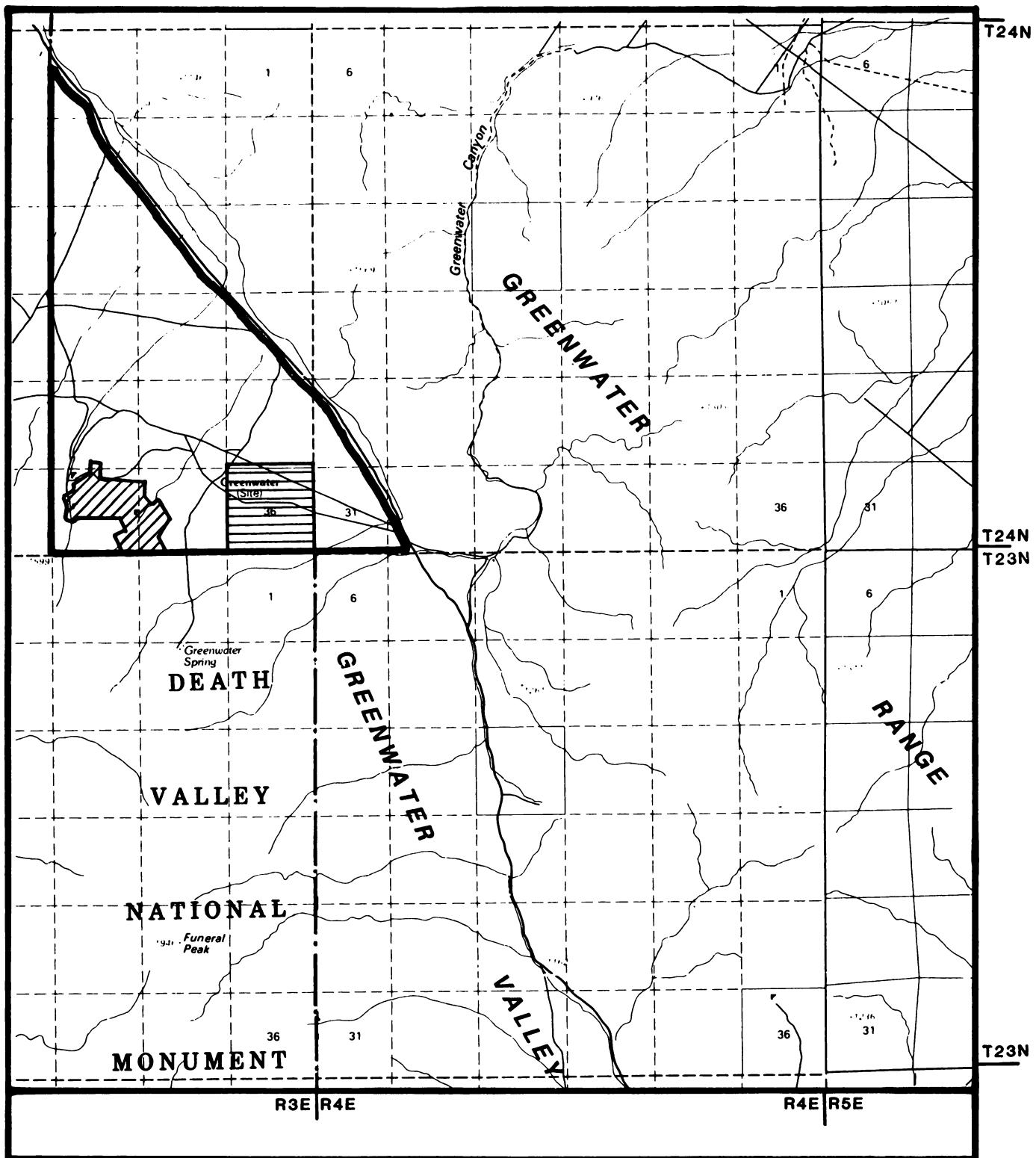


Proposed Addition  
National Park System  
Death Valley National Monument  
Pyramid Peak Area  
MAP-4

0 1 2 3  
MILES

JULY, 1989



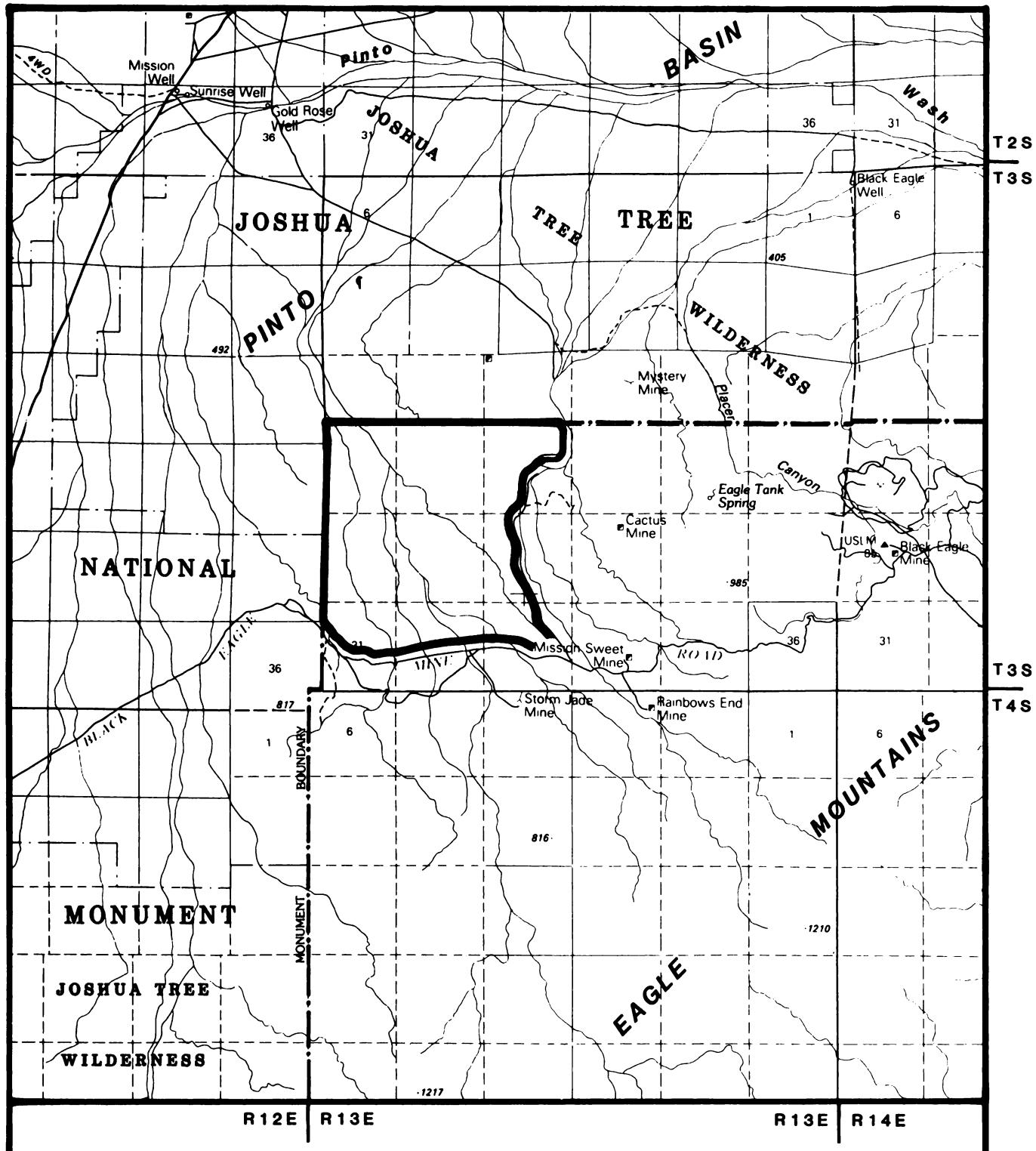


**Proposed Addition  
National Park System**  
**Death Valley National Monument**  
**Greenwater Valley Area**  
**MAP-5**

0 1 2 3  
MILES

JULY, 1989





**Proposed Addition**  
**National Park System**  
**Joshua Tree National Monument**  
**Pinto Basin Area**  
**MAP-6**

0 1 2 3  
 MILES

JULY, 1989

























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